

IRISES

The Bulletin of the American Iris Society





Iris pseudopumila (see article, page 38)

Irises: The Bulletin of the American Iris Society

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP RATES

Annual Single: \$25.00 / Dual: \$30.00
Triennial Single: \$60.00 / Dual: \$75.00
Life Single: \$1000.00 / Dual: \$1500.00

SENIOR LIFE (AGE 65+)

15% discount. (For Dual Senior Life, both members must be 65 or older.) 15% Senior Discount applies only to Life Membership.

OVERSEAS RATES

Annual Single: \$30.00 / Dual: \$35.00
Triennial Single: \$65.00 / Dual: \$80.00

YOUTH RATES (UNDER AGE 19)

Youth, without *Bulletin*: \$5.00
Youth, with *Bulletin*: \$9.00

May be paid by check, VISA, or Mastercard. Overseas memberships include bulk air mail to country of destination followed by first class postage within the country, and is payable in U.S. currency.

The American Iris Society is a nonprofit institution incorporated February 2, 1927, in the County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania. By the terms of the Charter, the Corporation has no stockholders and exists for the sole purpose of promoting the culture and improvement of the Iris.

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Iris reticulata with emerging *Sedum* 'Angelina'. See article, page 32

Photo: Panayoti Kelaidis

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On the Front Cover

Iris Reticulata
Photo: Panayoti Kelaidis

At the risk of being redundant to those members who know me, I thought it appropriate to list a short bio for those members who do not. As my wife Jean says, "I love irises." I have been growing them since 1950, when in the sixth grade I had a row of old purple "flags." Most irises back then were old diploid tall bearded irises with a mixture of some tetraploids, terminology I knew nothing of. A neighbor in my small Missouri town gave me my first named irises. The next year, I remember growing 'China Maid' (Milliken, 1936), 'Gudrun' (K. Dykes, 1930), and 'Theodolinda' (Ayres, 1932), which I knew as "Theolinda". My mother was enamored with the beautiful brown 'Mexico' (Kleinsorge, 1943) which we couldn't afford at the time.

Following graduation from the University of Missouri, service in the U.S. Army, and the start of my business career, I joined AIS in 1971. I went to my first AIS Convention that year in Wichita, KS, where I met my future mentor Louise Bellagamba. Since then it seems I have always been a "bobblehead" agreeing to take on any iris job or office. I served as Region 18 Bulletin editor and RVP from 1998-2000, as well as an AIS director 2005-2010, AIS judge since 1974 and Emeritus Judge since 2003. I chaired the AIS 1981 St. Louis Convention, was president of the Median Iris Society from 1991-1997 and five-term president of the Greater St. Louis Iris Society. I like to dig in the dirt and have been a volunteer horticulturist at the Missouri Botanical Garden from 2006 to present.

I would like to extend my gratitude to immediate past president Judy Keisling for her sterling performance as our leader and kudos to her officers, directors and committee chairmen. As we continue to go forward in these challenging times, I am pleased to announce several changes to our iris family.

Welcome to Dwayne Booth from Region 13 as our new treasurer. A graduate of Oregon State University with a BSBA and a former CPA, Dwayne has 40 years of experience in accounting and finance. He is RVP of Region 13 and has held multiple positions in the King County Iris Society from treasurer to president. Dwayne has been working closely with past treasurer Jill Bonino in the transition of duties and accounts.

Welcome to Veronica Johnson from Region 18 as our new legal advisor. She is a partner with Howard & Johnson, LLC, in St. Louis, specializing in employment law and civil rights litigation. Veronica received both her BS in Journalism and her JD from the University of Kansas. Following graduation she clerked for Chief Justice David Prager of the Kansas Supreme Court and began her civil

practice in Kansas City, MO. She is a member of the Missouri Bar, Kansas Bar, and the St. Louis chapter of the National Employment Lawyer's Association. She is a certified Master Gardener (Missouri Botanical Garden, 2009), cyclist, and former marathon runner. She has agreed to serve *pro bono* and any legal issues should be



first brought to my attention for discussion with the board of directors, as appropriate, before referral.

Following completion of her term as a director, I am pleased to welcome Jody Nolin from Region 6 as second vice president. Ron Killingsworth of Region 10 will be our new advertising editor (advertisers take notice); Janet Smith of Region 14 will add the AIS Calendar to her image coordinator and AIS Photo Contest duties (the 2014 calendar layout has already been completed and the calendar will be available through the AIS Storefront well in advance of the AIS 2014 Convention in Dallas, TX); first vice president Gary White of Region 21 will become Section and Cooperating Society liaison; Harold Griffie of Region 3 will succeed me as chairman of the Judges' Handbook Revision committee; Gordan Carver of Region 17 will administer the Iris Program Resources (Speakers) function; Riley Probst of Region 14 will chair the AIS Symposium. We have eliminated the following: Donations Secretary (donations now go through the AIS Foundation); Policy & Operations Manual (policy now assigned to the Recording Secretary Susan Boyce of Region 12, and the outdated manual is being evaluated by Debra Strauss of Region 17); Publications; and Tax Exempt Advisor. All other positions remain the same.

At the fall AIS board meeting, the board voted to award the prestigious AIS Gold Medal to botanist and hybridizer Jean Witt of Region 13. Congratulations to this extraordinary plantswoman and artist. A detailed article of her many accomplishments for AIS and the various sections for which she has worked is contained on pages 71-72 of the 50th Anniversary History Edition of *The Medianite* published by the Median Iris Society in Volume 48, Number 1 in the Spring of 2007.

The board also approved the awarding of the Bee Warburton Medal to Akira Horinoka of Japan and Distinguished Service Medals to immediate past president Judy Keisling and past treasurer Jill Bonino. These awards are well earned and deserved. Congratulations to each. ♣

Winter into Early Spring

In the world of gardening magazines, winter is truly the forgotten season and for obvious reasons. Issues that alight in our mailboxes at this time of the year often carry a seasonal descriptor of “early spring,” just to keep hope alive in the northern climes that spring is on its way. In these months, gardeners dream of small plants, the ephemeral pips that awaken the garden from its dormancy. Among those pips are the reticulated irises, the familiar bulbs that earn bragging rights for being first to bloom each season. *Iris reticulata* breeder and expert Alan McMurtrie offers his insights and advice again this winter, following-up on previous articles with an update of his breeding accomplishments.

One of the things I love about my work is that it takes me to great gardens, always tended by the most passionate and interesting people. Along and about my travels this fall, I’ve encountered several folks who have stories to share. Back in September, I spoke to the Capital Hudson Iris Society in Albany, New York and enjoyed talking with John Heimke, who teaches biology at Russell Sage College and has done some pollen stains of iris, which he’s contributed for *Standards & Falls*. In October, I met Pennsylvania iris lover Greg Hodgkinson, who writes in *In Your Backyard* about his efforts to collect all of Sterling Innerst’s introductions. Finally, Al Escarcega shared his ingenious invention for carrying cut stalks to the iris show with me when I spoke to the Hi Desert Iris Society in November. I took photos and he offered a description of his device for a clipping in *Standards & Falls*.

In closing I’d like to welcome some new additions to our magazine staff. First, we have a new advertising editor. Ron Killingsworth hails from Mooringsport, Louisiana, loves his native irises and their hybrids, and brings a wealth of energy and passion for advertising. Ron and I have discussed plans to modernize our approach, wanting to corral more financial support for our magazine through advertising revenue. Second, we have *three* new assistant editors on board—Carol-Jo Shonka of New Berlin, Wisconsin and Dave and Debra Miller of Springfield, Illinois. They will assume their new duties with the April/May issue and are already tremendous assets to the team simply for their willingness to serve. Thank you Carol-Jo, Dave, and Debra.



Connect with us!



Join the AIS crowd on Facebook!



editor@irises.org



Visit our website www.irises.org



Don't forget the blog!

<http://theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com/>



P.S. As some of you have heard, I have a new adventure in my life. As of November 30, I assumed new duties as the first horticulture manager at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, a newly developing, 14-acre public garden in downtown Des Moines, IA. In short, I have the honor, privilege and opportunity to build a botanical garden from scratch. It's overwhelming, exciting, and rewarding, often all in the same day. This issue is late, and there's nothing I can do but apologize for it. Your patience and support means a lot to me personally and to all of us in AIS leadership who really want to see this organization thrive. Thank you.

Treasurer's Report

BY JILL BONINO, CALIFORNIA

2013 will bring many new faces to AIS leadership. I would like to introduce the new AIS Treasurer Dwayne Booth.

Education

B.S. in Business Administration with concentration in Accounting, Oregon State University.

Work Experience

Dwayne worked for 40 years in accounting, finance, accounting systems and budgeting including 36 years with King County in Washington State. Dwayne held the designation of Certified Public Accountant (CPA) for several years, but since he does not perform audits, his license has been closed.

Irisarian Activities

Dwayne is the current Regional Vice President for Region 13, a member of King County Iris Society since 1996 and member of AIS since 1999. He has been president, secretary, treasurer, show chair and display garden chair of his local affiliate and was the Guest Iris Chair for the Region 13 Convention in June 2012. Dwayne has been a G/E Judge for six years.

This job has grown and expanded in duties since I became treasurer in 2006. During this time, the AIS has added many more electronic services, and now files electronic Form 990Ns for tax-exempt affiliates, regions, and sections. Membership has begun to increase after falling for several years, but revenues still lag operating expenses.

Please support Dwayne and the Board of Directors in new programs and services to keep The American Iris Society a financially thriving organization.

Thank you all for your support during my six years as treasurer, three years as General Secretary and two years as Recording Secretary. I've had a great time. ♣

AIS Insurance

BY MICHELLE SNYDER, INSURANCE CHAIR

Below are instructions for obtaining Certificates of Insurance when required by the venue where an event is being held. Please be aware I DO NOT obtain the certificates of insurance for the local clubs, etc. It is the responsibility of the club, etc. hosting the event to obtain the necessary Certificate of Insurance.

To obtain a Certificate of Insurance go the www.irises.org. Click on the Member Services link and then click on AIS Insurance and you will be taken to the page that has the instructions for obtaining the necessary Certificate. The form can either be downloaded and faxed to the number shown or it can be completed electronically and sent via email.

There is a statement that says "Is Certificate Holder requested to be named as an additional insured?" If you only need to show proof of insurance, circle No. If the venue needs to be named as an additional insured, circle Yes.

As always, if there are any problems associated with obtaining the needed Certificate, or if you have any questions in general regarding insurance, please contact me at either 928-282-5867, or <sammygiz@aol.com>. ♣

New AIS Legal Advisor

Veronica Johnson has been appointed as the new legal advisor to the AIS, taking the place of Bob Plank who provided exceptional service to the AIS for many, many years. If you believe you have a legal issue relating to the AIS and want further advice, please contact AIS President Jim Morris for assistance. His contact information can be found in the directory on page 4.

Exhibitions Update 2013

BY SUSAN BOYCE, UTAH

Approval

Don't forget to send your show schedules for approval to Lois Rose at least two months prior to your show date. Please note that Lois will be out of town January 26 through February 2, so no shows will be approved during this time. She is also planning on attending the AIS convention in April.

Supplies

Due to price increases in the ribbons and small rosettes, prices have increased this year. Also the US Postal Service has announced another package price increase starting in January 2013. This is the third increase since the shipping and handling fee was instated. Unfortunately the 2013 price increase for the packages is a sizeable increase.

1. The small rosettes will increase to \$6.00 for each rosette. (This is the first price increase for the small rosettes in ten years.)
2. The ribbons will now be \$11.00 for a pack of 25.
3. The shipping and handling fee will now be \$12.00.

Please note that Susan will be attending the AIS National Convention in Dallas, TX and will be gone from April 14-21. If you need supplies for your iris show to be held before April 29, please make sure that she receives your order before April 11 at the latest.

Show Reports

1. Karen and Ray's email address has changed. Their new email address is ramonwjones@comcast.net.
2. When filling out your show report, please print. It is extremely important that the information is correct, and it is sometimes very hard to read what is written.
3. When you send in your show report, remember that your final show schedule must accompany the show report. ♣

Increase In Life Member Dues Effective November 2, 2012

The Board of Directors of The American Iris Society voted to increase the Single and Dual life member dues effective November 2, 2012.

A Single Life Membership is now \$1,000

A Dual Life Membership is now \$1,500

AIS Life Membership provides the member with a lifetime of quarterly magazines and access to other membership services at no additional cost. Life membership dues were increased so that when those funds are invested in interest-bearing accounts, they should earn enough annual interest to cover the yearly costs of the AIS *Bulletin*.

This has not been happening for the last several years, and the life membership program is continuing to lose money for the AIS at an increasing rate. There is no way around the fact that interest rates on certificates of deposit and money market accounts continue to stay very low and may not increase much in the next several years. AIS investment policy states that investments funds can only be put into federally insured certificates of deposit or money market funds.

During this past fiscal year, the amount of money earned on Life Member Restricted Investments covered only \$7.49 of the average total cost per member of \$17.66.

The Board of Directors does not want to raise dues to any members. All members are important to us and the organization, but the AIS cannot afford to allow the dues of regular members to subsidize the cost of Life Members.

Those of you who are current life members will be not asked for any additional dues. However future life member funds need to earn enough to cover the annual cost of four quarterly issues of the magazine. At current interest rates, funds from future life members can earn between 1-2 % per year. This should be enough to cover annual life member costs unless or until costs or interest rates change.

Please refer to the 9-30-12 AIS financial statements posted on www.irises.org for further details. ♣

Announcing “News & Notes,” a New Benefit For AIS members!

BY ROBERT PRIES, AIS PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING CHAIRMAN, NORTH CAROLINA

How would you like instant notification when awards are announced, board minutes are released, new iris research is published, or convention dates and registrations are announced? How would you like to limit input to only those things you are interested in? How would you like to take part in opinion polls and surveys on irises and related topics? Soon you will have these options!

The AIS is launching a new electronic newsletter called “AIS News & Notes.” It is free to all members who provide an e-mail address. A few weeks after the winter Bulletin comes out, we will email you an invitation. If your email is not on file with the Membership Secretary, Tom Gormley, please send him an update. Simply check that you opt in and paste the address in your address book.

We hope this will provide more information to our members and help us get feedback on making the AIS a better organization. ❀



Siberian & Species Iris Convention & Region 6 Spring Meeting

June 6-8, 2013
Lansing / Kalamazoo, MI
‘A Capital Idea’

Download registration form online:
<http://www.socsib.org/RegistrationForm2013.pdf>

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Order top quality bulbs, plants, garden tools and accessories from Brent and Becky’s Bulbs and AIS receives 25% of your order.

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Upgrade Your Membership and Get a \$25.00 Voucher!

The Voucher Program is here for any new member of AIS, any new e-member, or for any current member who upgrades their membership as in upgrading from a single membership to a triennial or dual, or an e-member who upgrades to multiple years of e-membership.

The program will work like this: each new or upgraded member will receive a voucher in the mail from Membership Secretary Tom Gormley. Included with the voucher will be a listing of participating nurseries that accept the voucher with an order for irises. The listing will show what value each nursery places on the voucher and the minimum order each nursery requires. The list will also appear on the AIS website www.irises.org.

When you mail your order to one of the participating nurseries, you will include your voucher with the order. If you order online, you must mail your original voucher to the nursery chosen. Your voucher can only be used

once and with one nursery of your choice. The voucher must be redeemed by December 31, 2013.

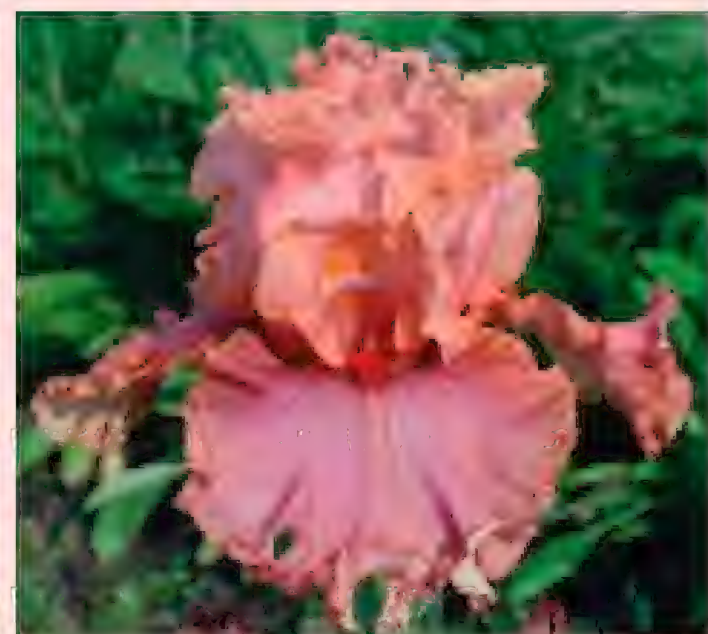


The voucher value does not count toward a minimum purchase amount. Most vendors do not treat this as a discount off the order, but rather will provide you with a plant of their choice at the value listed for the voucher. You will pay the shipping charge on your order as usual.

If you have any questions about this program please contact Susan Grigg, Public Relations and Marketing Committee, 105 Trotters Ridge Dr., Raleigh, NC 27614, irismom@nc.rr.com or Tom Gormley, Membership Secretary, PO Box 177, DeLeon Springs, FL 32130, AISMemsec@irises.org. ❀

Fan's Iris Garden

14 Chestnut Drive, East Windsor, NJ 08520. 609-747-8978



MARIA MALIBRAN (Bushnell 2013) (Cordoba X Martile Rowland seedling) TB, 33", L.

Maria Malibran's biographer has created the Maria Malibran iris! Pink - fuschia - gold - orange blend, faint indigo wash. Unique coloring worthy of the unique and legendary singer. Heavy substance, unusually hardy. Advance praise for **Maria Malibran**:

Oregon: "Howard, you have outdone yourself." "The most exciting seedling I have seen in years."

Texas: "Maria Malibran herself would be proud."

California: "Glorious." "**Maria Malibran** is a great iris."

\$45 for one, two for \$80, three for \$100. \$10 shipping per order. Make check payable to Chun Fan.

Youth Views

BY CHERYL DEATON, CALIFORNIA

A huge thank you to the Region 15 AIS Convention Committee for sending every AIS youth member a recently introduced iris from the convention gardens. Many of the youth members have sent me thank-you notes expressing their gratitude for a new iris, and their excitement waiting for spring to see their new iris in bloom in their gardens. I hope many irisarians share their bounty with young people and spread the “iris virus”. For many of our youth members, this is the only way they can grow newer introductions.

Ackerman Essay Topic

Did you know that the first President of The American Iris Society was John C. Wister? AIS Foundation member, Carol Warner, has chosen the following topic for the 2013 Ackerman Essay Contest, sponsored yearly by the AIS Foundation. John C. Wister wrote “The iris is the mainstay of the hardy garden.” This year’s essay submissions should answer the question “what makes irises outstanding garden plants, and why do you like to grow them?”

Please try to limit your essay to 500 words. Start with an opening sentence. Think of a few points related to the topic that you want to explore, and write a few sentences in support of your ideas. Once you have explained your thoughts, create a concluding sentence that brings all of your ideas together. That’s all there is to it! You’ve written an essay! Adults can help you with your spelling and punctuation, but this essay should be your own work. Once you are finished, send your essay to Carol Warner, 16815 Falls Rd., Upperco, MD 21155, or email it as an attachment to draycott@qis.net.

Deadline is March 15, 2013. A cash prize will be awarded to the winner in the lower division of 12 years old and under, and to the winner in the upper division of 13 years old and up. The winners will be announced at the AIS National Convention Awards dinner in Dallas, Texas. Good luck.

Do you have a friend who might like to grow irises? Why not invite them to come with you to your next meeting? Is there a flower garden at your school? Are there irises in the garden? Have you thought about entering the science fair with an iris exhibit? Youth members are an important part of AIS! Being active in your club, entering shows, and getting new people interested in irises are important parts of being an AIS member, whether you are young or just “young at heart”. Make sure you share your love of our favorite flower any chance you get. Send me suggestions as to how AIS can improve to make your experiences better.

Reminder

Deadline for nominations for the Clarke Cosgrove Memorial Award for Youth Achievement is January 31, 2013. Adult AIS members can nominate a deserving youth member for this award by emailing their nomination as an attachment to me at region15kids@hotmail.com or by mailing me their nomination to 27218 Walnut Springs Avenue, Canyon Country, CA 91351-3314. The Youth Views column in each October issue of *Irises* has a list of the suggested activities the youth member should participate in. Take a moment to review these accomplishments and think of a youth member you know who has shown what a valuable member of your club or region they have become. Please nominate a youth member today! ♣

Conventions

2013: April 15 - April 20 Dallas, Texas

Chair: Bonnie Nichols

3365 Northaven Road; Dallas, TX 75229; (214) 352-2191; <bjnhtn@aol.com>

Headquarters: Crowne Plaza Dallas (Near the Galleria)

14315 Midway Road; Addison, TX 75001; (972)980-8877

2014: April 5 - April 10 Dallas, Texas

See above

2015: May 18 - 23 Portland, Oregon

Chair: John Ludi

35071 SE Hwy 211; Boring, OR 97009; (503) 668-9230; <kludi@juno.com>

Headquarters: Red Lion Hotel on the River (Jantzen Beach, Oregon)

909 N. Hayden Island Drive; Portland, OR 97217; (503) 283-4466; www.Redlion.com/jantzenbeach

Fall Board Meetings

2012, Nov 2 - 4: Columbus, OH

Chair: Jody Nolin

5184 County Road 20; Rushsylvania, OH 43347; (614)507-0332; <jody.nolin@gmail.com>

Headquarters: Crowne Plaza Columbus North-The Place to Meet

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2014 Nov. 7 - 8: Salt Lake City, UT

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In Your Backyard

What's happening in your garden? A reader-driven feature in *Iris*!

Submit your stories and photos to the editor for future inclusion in this segment!

Sterling reached the pinnacle of iris hybridization when he was awarded the Dykes Medal by The American Iris Society in 1996 for his cultivar 'Before the Storm' (1989).

I like plicatas, and Sterling introduced many plicatas. His plicatas were not the ordinary, classic purple or blue plicata everyone was used to. They are motley with unexpected color combinations splashed all over. This would include examples like 'Tennessee Gentleman' (1991), 'Ominous Stranger' (1993), 'Colorwatch' (1987), and 'Behind Closed Doors' (1997). Then there are the strange names he liked to bestow on his cultivars, like 'Aggressively Forward' (1995), 'Hokeypokey' (1986), 'Lascivious Dreams' (1995), and 'Frothingslosh' (1993). My favorite of all that have bloomed so far is 'Exclusivity' (1999). This iris is very striking in any light, but shines most in the sunshine. It draws you in from across the garden.

I started this project with just under 200 cultivars, 16 of which were hybridized by Sterling. Ironically, all 16 had been acquired the month before the project began! I needed to come up with a way to fulfill my new quest. I came up an acronym: DICED. "DICED" stands for: Document, Identify, Collect, Enjoy, Display.

- 1. Document.** Research the internet, AIS Wiki, and any other source to find out what was produced and put it into a spreadsheet.
- 2. Identify.** Find sources for each cultivar (private and commercial).
- 3. Collect.** Acquire the cultivars.
- 4. Enjoy.** Grow, enjoy, and share.
- 5. Display.** Find a location that could host/display the hybridizer's work.

For now, the "Display" aspect is just in my garden. The preservation of Sterling's work became a local/regional priority shortly after I started the project

with the conclusion being that the region in which a hybridizer worked should be the region that supports and collects their work for future generations. Ultimately, the goal is to pass the collection to some organization that can nurture the collection to a more public display. This could be a university, college, memorial gardens (like Presby), or an arboretum. Many folks from my region have helped with a plant or two and many stories.

So where am I now? I now grow just under 400 cultivars, of which 117 were hybridized by Sterling. The 117 represents 55% of the total known introductions made by Sterling, which currently stands at 213. My "Sterling" collection represents 30% of my total collection. So did I meet my stated goal to limit reckless expansion? Probably not at this point. The reason? Well, I doubled my collection in two years. Of that, half can be attributed to my Sterling Innerst theme. I did add two more themes which accounts for an additional 25 cultivars! I still am collecting Dykes Medal winners (I have 26), and I added another local hybridizer—Joan Roberts. She is working with rebloomers, has only introduced 24 cultivars (I have 12), is still around, lives in the next town over from me, and I am now getting to do the things I thought I would be doing with Sterling Innerst. I can only wonder how my garden would look if I did not have my themes to slow me down.

Editor's Note: After lecturing to the Garden State Iris Society this fall, I was inspired by Greg's quest and thought it worthy to share in the magazine. Anyone interested in helping the "Sterling Project" can go to the Delaware Valley Iris Society (DVIS) website below to see what varieties are still needed. If you have a variety to share, just send Greg a note. I'm sure he would love to hear from you. His email is TheSterlingIrisProject@yahoo.com. ♣

http://www.dvis-ais.org/Hybridizer_wiki/



By Greg Hodgkinson, Pennsylvania

The Sterling Project

I am starting to have a serious space issue with my iris collection. I have gotten to the point that I need to implement some sort of “theme” for my iris garden. The days of haphazardly acquiring iris cultivars are over, because I just don’t have the space. A theme would be a good way to limit my “reckless” expansion, so I do not outstrip the space I have. Some will venture to say that this is a misguided plan at best and pure folly at worst. Maybe so, but I need to try.

Picking a theme sounds easy enough, right? I could try the “tried and true” Dykes Medal winners theme. This is great if you like a lot of blue and historics. I like both, but this is being done in lots of places. I need something a bit more off the beaten path and challenging. What to do—color, type, medians? Medians weren’t an option—someone else nearby has an MIS Display Garden with over 350 cultivars. But what about one hybridizer, and if so, which one? Then it hit me—local. Local hybridizer! This seemed like the best plan as I could work with the hybridizer and my local iris society members to collect the needed cultivars. Now, I need to pick one.

I chose Sterling Innerst. He was a member of my local iris society, lots of members had his plants, his varieties were unique, and this fit my idea for a suitable theme. I arrived at this plan in August of 2010. I mentioned this idea to a couple of folks at my local club’s picnic and all were enthusiastic about it. I wanted to meet Sterling and talk to him about my ambitious project. Sadly, I never had the chance. He died shortly thereafter. Thus, the “Sterling” project started in earnest.

Sterling Innerst was a prolific iris hybridizer who registered and/or introduced over 200 irises during his lifetime. He introduced irises in several categories including border bearded, intermediate bearded, tall bearded, miniature tall bearded, Japanese, and standard dwarf bearded. His main focus was TBs.

Photos, top to bottom:

‘Exclusivity’ (Innerst, 1999)

‘Ominous Stranger’ (Innerst, 1993)

‘Tennessee Gentleman’ (Innerst, 1991)



Harriet Tubman

In the fall of 2011, we were visited by a group commissioned by the state of Maryland to do a study for a 2013 tourism initiative on Harriet Tubman, a slave who helped lead hundreds of slaves to freedom along the Underground Railroad. 2013 marks the 100th anniversary of Tubman's passing, and the state is preparing to celebrate the date by locating historic sites from her life and promoting tourism in the area. Imagine our surprise to learn that our property may have been a part of the original plantation in Preston, Maryland, where Harriet Tubman lived and conducted freedom operations!

The state is building a tourist center in Cambridge, Maryland, and has mapped out the "Harriet Tubman Byway," a tourist route which passes right by our property. The study group was excited to learn that we were growing irises, which would be a lovely landscape for tourists passing by. When they found out I had begun hybridizing irises, one gentleman asked if perhaps I might name one after Harriet Tubman!

Wow, what a challenge! My first crop of seedlings was crossed in 2008, so the first year's germination had not all come into bloom until that year and was rather limited. As many beginner hybridizers find, those first crosses were not necessarily spectacular. I had only a fair number of nice irises to cross in 2008, so it would be a challenge to find one that was good enough to introduce and that would somehow represent the life of Harriett Tubman.

I went to the photo files of my seedlings to look for one that might fit the bill and was pleased to find one. Seedling 08-10B, from Cuss A Blue Streak X Home Fires Burning, was a good grower with nine buds nicely spaced on three branches and a spur. Its form was modern enough to be pleasing, but not too modern for such a historic figure. The coloring was a cocoa-pink blend (symbolizing Tubman's quest to give blacks the same freedom that whites enjoyed) with mustard yellow beard and shoulders (symbolizing that she "mustered" the courage and "shouldered" the call to be a light—a ray of hope—for her people). The cocoa-pink falls sport a lavender blue flash radiating down from the beard, reminding us that she served as a nurse, scout and spy for the Union Army.

The more I thought about it, the more I liked the iris to be her namesake. I moved it out of the seedling row to a reselect bed and divided it to increase for introduction. When it bloomed this year, it had become darker overall, presumably because of the difference in soil. While I haven't tested it, I believe the soil may be more acidic in the new bed. It may have been the weather, too. Whatever the cause, the cocoa pink had become cocoa brown, and the mustard yellow became darker as did the lavender blue flash. I like both versions and will introduce it in 2013 as 'Harriet Tubman' to coincide with the 100th anniversary celebration. Harriet Tubman will be my first introduction. Watch for it at the conventions! ♣



'Harriet Tubman' (McNeal, 2013)

Errata

Some of you noticed on page 3 of the October/November issue of *Irises* a strange "Electronic Membership rates" notice appeared in the usual boilerplate. These are not AIS Electronic Membership rates, but rather those of the Dwarf Iris Society. Please excuse the confusion.

The Care and Feeding of Rock Gardens

BY RICHARD C. RICHARDS, CALIFORNIA

I didn't set out to create a rock garden. It just sort of happened. What I wanted was an iris garden, and for a decade or so I thought I was reasonably successful. But the ongoing presence of rocks in my iris bed called my attention to an embarrassing fact. Rocks in my iris garden were growing faster and better than my irises.

This fact was pointed out to me in my periodic reconstruction of my iris beds. Taking the irises out of the beds and digging in soil amendments to feed their voracious appetites had become a ritual every other year. I dug rocks out of my rocky soil each time I renewed the beds and left them in a pile for another use.

However, each digging produced the same amount of rocks. Year after year, though I removed every rock larger than a pebble two years prior, there were still rocks in the beds. Then it hit me—the pebbles I was not removing because they were so small were growing into larger rocks. It was probably due to all the care and attention I was applying to the irises. I was growing rocks, and doing a better job of it than I was of growing irises.

There is a prejudice in the geological community that rocks only change over very long periods of time. I too held this prejudice for a long time. In light of my observations in my iris garden however, I have had to admit the truth. Rocks will respond to care, and I am very good at caring for rocks.

There is no other reasonable explanation for the ongoing presence of rocks, year after year, discovered by my shovel and my tiller. The rocks I had removed from the garden in previous years have not grown at all. I conclude it was my care that was causing the small rocks to grow into larger ones.

I now have a rock garden of my very own. I've always wondered what all the talk about rock gardens is about. Now I know. Apparently, though other people have rock gardens, they cannot grow rocks as well as I can. They seem to have their rocks sticking partly out of the ground, and that may be why the rocks don't grow well. It's clear to the most casual observer that rocks do not have roots, and therefore need to be completely buried to absorb enough nutrients to grow in any measurable way.

For those who want to try to grow their own rock garden, fertilize heavily. Rocks need a lot of amendments to grow successfully. Water about the same as you would for irises. Rocks and irises seem to need nearly identical conditions. While you are waiting for your rocks to grow, you might as well plant irises in the beds. They are a good companion plant for rocks. ♣

The views expressed in this column are solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the staff of Irises or The American Iris Society. Please respect the right of contributors to articulate their opinions in a meaningful way. Rebuttals are surely encouraged!

Standards & Falls

COMPILED BY THE EDITORIAL STAFF

In this new, regular feature, the editorial staff has culled the iris world for the latest news and notable findings. Combining both Milestones and Section Happenings with the addition of a fresh-every-issue assortment of tidbits, Standards & Falls will channel what's hot in the world of irises, straight from the Internet to your coffee table.

The (Microscopic) World of Irises

Dr. John Heimke, avid irisarian and biology professor at Russell Sage College in Troy, NY shared these photos from pollen grain stains he conducted this year. John conducted a series of pollen germination experiments in his laboratory using an artificial agarose medium that he formulated and pollen from SDB 'Near Myth' (Aitken, 1998). He shared these fascinating photos, magnified at 100X from his microscope camera. The first photo shows germinating pollen after 12 hours, while the second shows pollen tube development 24 hours after germinating.



Section Notes

Society for Louisiana Irises

Thanks to Jim Morris for authoring this column over the past several years. I will do my best to keep up the standard that Jim has set. I have been a member of most of the sections and cooperating societies for several years and will soon be a member of all of them. I am currently the president of the Historic Iris Preservation Society, AIS First VP, Secretary/Treasurer of the AIS Foundation. My iris interests extend to all classes, and I try to grow as wide a variety as zone 5a in Lincoln, Nebraska will permit..... with varying successes and failures. I welcome your news, notes, and comments.

—Gary White,
AIS Section & Cooperating Society Liaison

Aril Society International

Patricia Toolan has been at the helm of the Aril Society International for the past 10 years! Wow! The society now welcomes Anita Moran as its new President on January 1, 2013. Bob

Pries is now the Vice President of the society, replacing Scott Jordan. The October issue of the Aril Society International Newsletter was the Seed Exchange Issue, and what an interesting listing of seeds it was. Seed donors were from Israel, Australia, Denmark, France, Italy, Great Britain, Germany and the USA. As Pat Toolan noted, participating in the seed exchange is like getting two presents, once when you receive the seed, and another when the plants bloom. Also in this latest issue of the Newsletter was "Part One of a 10,000-Mile Iris Trek Across America: The Aril Side" by incoming ASI President, Anita Moran. Part One covers her visit to John Baumfalk's garden in Newton, Kansas. To say that John's garden and Anita's description of it (complete with photos) is inspiring, is an understatement. And speaking of photos, Donald Eaves' article "Seedling Photos and Comments" was a colorful and fitting finale to the Seed Exchange Issue 2012.

Frank P. Jones and His Irises

A few months ago, we received an email from Kurt Davidson (kcdavisons@hotmail.com), great nephew of the late iris hybridizer Frank P. Jones. Kurt is on a mission to learn more about his great uncle's hybridizing, including tracking down some of his varieties for a tribute. His note prompted us to do a little digging. According to the Iris Registry, Frank Jones introduced seven irises, all rebloomers, including the familiar 'Autumn Bugler' (1986) and 'Lady Emma' (1986), both of which have reputations as strong growers and reliable rebloomers, especially in northern climates. If you have a story about the late iris breeder to share or a piece of one of his introductions, get in touch with Kurt. Pictured below are two other introductions—'Grape Adventure' (Jones, 1985) and 'September Replay' (Jones, 1992)—and photos of the late Mr. Jones with fellow hybridizers Lloyd Zurbrigg and John Weiler.



Historic Iris Preservation Society

The latest issue of *Flags*, the electronic magazine, or e-zine, on historic irises was launched in late October on the HIPS website. Webmaster Mike Unser edits this wonderful online magazine, and has made it accessible to all on the HIPS home page. Issue 6 offers lots of information, photos, and links to more in-depth information on historic irises, gardens, news, and even music. The "Looking Back" article in this issue goes back to 1959 and Eden Road, the garden of Gordon Plough in Wenatchee, Washington. I still grow 'Edenite' (1959), and I love it more each year. Iris Portraits by Deb Bender feature striking photos of a double handful of great irises from the first half of the 20th century. "Definition Drift" by Bob Pries is an in-depth look at the changing meanings of words, phrases and definitions over the decades since the AIS was founded. Botanical classification changes have affected iris terminology as well. Bob gives insight into how the Iris Encyclopedia can help clarify these changes and keep us all updated and informed on terminology changes. Cathy Egerer

in Grand Marais, MI offers an essay "Field of Dreams? Transforming a Weedy Mess in to a Historic Iris Garden," explaining with text and photos how she accomplished it. Photo essays on "Jean Nicolas Lemon Irises" and "Irises in Istanbul, Turkey" are included. And finally, for poetry by Paul Verlaine and classical music by Debussy, check out "What's in a Name? 'Clair De Lune'."

Other Section News

The *Spuria Iris Society* celebrated 60 years of existence in 2012. The society was organized in 1952.

SIGNA, the *Species Iris Group North America*, became a section of AIS 40 years ago, in 1972. Long-time president of *SIGNA*, Will Plotner, is now immediate past president, and Ken Walkup has taken up the baton of President in 2013.

Section mini-conventions in 2013 include the *Society for Louisiana Irises*, April 19-21 in Dallas, TX, immediately following the AIS Convention, and the *Society For Siberian Irises/SIGNA* combined convention June 6-8, 2013 in Lansing, MI.

Bucket List?

The only list you might be making after reading this clip is a list of supplies to go build one of these ingenious little contraptions yourself. Designed and built by Lancaster, CA-area iris lover Al Escarcega, this “bucket” was born of necessity. After trying various ways to transport irises to the annual iris show and having little luck, Al pioneered a design from recycled materials.

Al says you can start with any bucket, round, rectangular or square, so long as it's five gallons or less in

volume. He first used an empty laundry detergent bucket. He then made a base of lumber to fit the inside bottom of the bucket and then measured to see how many cans will fit 15 ounce cans. Al screwed six cans to the base then inserted a plastic bottle in the cans, preferring 16 ounce Snapple® containers. Why Snapple®? They have a larger opening than other bottles he found, comfortably fitting larger stalks of irises that smaller containers wouldn't. After fitting the bottles into the cans, he fashioned a lumber topper, drilled holes, and crafted his first show stalk carrier. A venerable show champion, Al fills the bottles before inserting the stalks, cuts his prize-winning stems and heads off to competition.



Blog about it

AIS Social Media Manager Andi Rivarola does an excellent job of coordinating photos and short essays about all things iris. Bryce Williamson typed a November tribute to famed iris breeder Joe Gatty, replete with a photo tour of the hybridizer's award-winning and popular introductions. In December, Jim Hedgecock offered some reassuring words of encouragement and advice to gardeners suffering in the near-continental-wide drought. You can read all the latest blogs and search the archives at theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com.

Facebook Group Discusses Wide Crosses



The Iris Lovers group on Facebook is a very active community of 1,361 people who regularly post photos, answer questions, and engage each other on a range of topics relating to growing, judging, evaluating, and hybridizing irises. Throughout the summer and fall, the topic of wide crosses has come up, driven by an initial question from Walter Moores of Mississippi as to everyone's definitions of wide crosses.

Betty Wilkerson (Kentucky):

"My definition has changed in the last thirty years. Originally I thought it meant diploid x tetraploid etc. Now, I tend to think of it as anything that is not line breeding."

Lucy Burton (Massachusetts):

"When something horrible appears or as an excuse."

Linda Mann (Tennessee):

"Unrelated for many generations and selected in different climates."

Tom Waters (New Mexico):

"I think of it as a relative term. If you're working inbred lines, crossing two different lines is "wide." My preference is to use the term only when speaking of crosses between different types of iris: aril x bearded, pseudacorus x ensata, cal x sib, or crosses between bearded irises with different chromosome configurations."

Walter Moores (Mississippi):

"Tom, your thoughts on wide crosses coincide with mine. I remember this same discussion on iris-I or iris-talk many years ago basically with a different audience. I've always thought it meant more than crossing outside of a line."



Anita Moran (Maryland) later shared a few photos of wide crosses from her own backyard, adding that for her wide crosses either refer to traditionally produced IBs (SDB x TB), irises that lack common parentage within five generations, or species that wouldn't otherwise cross in the wild without human intervention. ♣

Tall Bearded Iris Symposium, 2012

R2011	R2012	Cultivar	Votes	Hybridizer	Year	Season	Height	Color
1	1	DUSKY CHALLENGER	113	Schreiner	86	M-L	39"	dark purple
2	2	QUEEN'S CIRCLE	97	F. Kerr	'00	ML	32"	white, blue border on F
3	3	PAUL BLACK	84	T. Johnson	'03	M	42"	dark purple, orange bd.
4	4	JESSE'S SONG	78	B. Williamson	83	M	36"	white & violet plicata
8	5	THORNBIRD	71	M. Byers	89	M	35"	ecru tan vio. horns
5	6	CONJURATION	70	M. Byers	89	M-L	36"	white & violet and white w horns
7	7	STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN	66	L. Lauer	93	E-M	40"	off white S./med. blue F
9	8	FLORENTINE SILK	65	K. Keppel	'04	ML	40"	peach S, violet F w pink edge
23	8	THAT'S ALL FOLKS	65	W. Maryott	'04	M	40"	gold S, white F w gold blend and band
9	10	GYPSY LORD	63	K. Keppel	'05	ML	40"	white S, violet F w white center, red bd.
11	10	SILVERADO	63	Schreiner	87	M	38"	light silver blue
11	12	BEFORE THE STORM	62	S. Innerst	89	M	36"	near black
5	13	GOLDEN PANTHER	61	R. Tasco	'00	M	34"	gold/bronze
18	14	MESMERIZER	58	M. Byers	91	M	36"	white/white flounces
13	15	BEVERLY SILLS	57	B. Hager	79	M	36"	pink
15	16	DAUGHTER OF STARS	56	D. Spoon	'00	EM & RE	35"	purple w white edge
16	16	SEA POWER	56	K. Keppel	99	M	38"	ruffled blue
19	18	DECADENCE	55	Barry Blyth	'04	M	38"	apricot S, plum F w. apricot edge
16	19	DRAMA QUEEN	54	K. Keppel	'03	EM	38"	cyclamen / capucine plicata
26	20	EDITH WOLFORD	51	B. Hager	86	M	40"	yellow S.;blue-violet F
36	21	SPLASHACATA	50	R. Tasco	98	M	35"	purple on white dotted plicata
14	22	CELEBRATION SONG	49	Schreiner	93	E-M-L	37"	apricot-pink S. blue-lavender falls
28	22	TITAN'S GLORY	49	Schreiner	81	E-M	37"	dark violet
20	24	HELLO DARKNESS	47	Schreiner	93	E-M	37"	purple black
28	24	SKATING PARTY	47	L. Gaulter	83	M-L	40"	white
31	24	CRACKLING CALDERA	47	J. T.Aitken	'03	ML	33"	S orange, F yellow w orange rim
23	27	IMMORTALITY	45	L. Zurbrigg	84	M&Re	30"	white
25	28	STEPPING OUT	44	Schreiner	64	M-L	38"	white & violet plicata
27	28	WINTRY SKY	44	K. Keppel	'02	EM	36"	blue S, blue white F
40	28	JURASSIC PARK	44	L. Lauer	95	EM	36"	yellow S. purple F
36	31	ACOMA	42	T. Magee	90	E	30"	pale blue/violet plicata
20	32	LADY FRIEND	41	J. Ghio	81	VE-E	38"	garnet red
28	33	VANITY	39	B. Hager	75	E-L	36"	pink
53	34	RUSTLER	38	K. Keppel	88	M	37"	gold-brown
38	35	LACED COTTON	37	Schreiner	80	M-L	34"	white
41	35	CLARENCE	37	L. Zurbrigg	91	M&Re	35"	white S; lt. blue
22	37	YAQUINA BLUE	36	Schreiner	92	M	37"	medium blue
51	37	TIGER HONEY	36	B. Kasperek	94	EM	38"	butterscotch-caramel w/ wht. & yel. streaks
71	37	BEWILDERBEAST	36	B. Kasperek	95	M	30"	mauve streaked silver
32	40	CHAMPAGNE ELEGANCE	34	D. Niswonger	87	M	33"	pink & apricot
33	40	HAPPENSTANCE	34	K. Keppel	'00	M	37"	pink
45	40	ITALIAN ICE	34	A & D Cadd	'01	ML	41"	pale yellow S, cream yellow F
59	40	GOT MILK	34	J. T. Aitken	'02	ML	40"	White Self
69	40	POEM OF ECSTASY	34	B. Hager	97	M	36"	peach pink S, deep lavender F
73	40	KATHY CHILTON	34	F. Kerr	'05	ML	35"	gold S, red-black F, gold bd
38	46	MARY FRANCES	33	L. Gaulter	72	M	38"	blue-orchid
46	46	WORLD PREMIER	33	Schreiner	98	ML	37"	blue white S, dk. blue violet F w white rim
55	46	SLOVAK PRINCE	33	A. Mego	'03	M	33"	S orchid w gold rim, F purple w wh. zone
59	46	RING AROUND ROSIE	33	R. Ernst	'00	M	35"	white sanded purple, yellow rim
44	50	RARE TREAT	32	Schreiner	87	E-M	34"	blue & white plicata
46	51	VICTORIA FALLS	31	Schreiner	77	E-L	40"	blue; wht. spot on F
57	51	MONTMARTRE	31	K. Keppel	'07	EM	33"	S purple w yellow edge, F purple w white edge
91	51	ELIZABETHAN AGE	31	L. Baumunk	'05	EM	33"	apricot S, purple-white luminata F w apricot band
65	54	SUPERSTITION	30	Schreiner	77	M	36"	maroon black



Above:
'Ink Patterns' (Johnson, 2007),
Below:
'Tobacco Chew' (Burseen, 2009)
Right:
'Scatterbrain' (Johnson, 2008)

Above:
Money In Your Pocket
(Black, 2007)
Below:
'Barbara Jean' (Mullin, 2005)



33	55	HONKY TONK BLUES	29	Schreiner	88	M	37"	hyacinth blue
33	55	STARRING	29	J. Ghio	'00	ML	33"	white S; purp. black F
46	55	MILLENNIUM FALCON	29	B. Kasperek	'00	M	38"	blue bitone w. white streaks
78	55	BLACK MAGIC WOMAN	29	R. Tasco	'08	EM	34"	S red-violet, F black
62	59	OREO	28	K. Keppel	'04	M	31"	elderberry S, white F w. eggplant edge
53	60	HOLLYWOOD NIGHTS	27	R. Duncan	'01	M	32"	deep purple black,white spray
43	61	SUPREME SULTAN	26	Schreiner	88	M-L	40"	yellow S; crimson F
46	61	AFTERNOON DELIGHT	26	R. Ernst	85	M	40"	tan-gold/ maroon
86	61	BREAKERS	26	Schreiner	86	M	36"	medium blue
65	64	TOUR DE FRANCE	25	K. Keppel	'04	M	35"	white S, chrome yellow F
71	64	BOYSENBERRY BUTTERCUP	25	L. Lauer	97	EM	37"	creamy yellow S, lavender F w lt rim
90	64	ABSOLUTE TREASURE	25	R. Tasco	'06	M	42"	Sky blue w white bd
42	67	CROWNED HEADS	24	K. Keppel	97	M	38"	wistaria S, lt. blue F
78	67	GOING MY WAY	24	J. Gibson	72	M	37"	white & violet plicata
92	67	AMARILLO FRILLS	24	B. Hager/Cooleys	'02	EM	37"	Laced yellow self
78	70	SPICED TIGER	23	B. Kasperek	96	EM	31"	tan S; mahog F. wh. Streaks
86	70	PRAGUE	23	T. Johnson	'04	M	36"	peach S, burgundy F w mauve rim
	70	SCATTERBRAIN	23	Thomas Johnson	'08	L	40"	white, gold rims, F with ruby veins
51	73	TOM JOHNSON	22	P. Black	96	E	35"	dark purple, red orange beards
100	73	CELESTIAL EXPLOSION	22	R. Tasco	'04	EM	35"	S violet, F white w violet peppering and rim
55	75	POND LILY	21	Ev. Jones	95	M	38"	violet blended pink
62	75	STARSHIP ENTERPRISE	21	Schreiner	99	ML	36"	white S; cream F w magenta band
65	75	HUCKLEBERRY FUDGE	21	J. Gibson	97	M	35"	S brown, F white/brown plic
78	75	EVERYTHING PLUS	21	D. Niswonger	84	M	34"	blue-wht. & violet plic
78	75	HEARTSTRING STRUMMER	21	B. Johnson	'01	ML	40"	S wht w lav edges, F med violet, darker edges
46	80	BRIDE'S HALO	20	H. Mohr	73	E-L	36"	white edged yellow
57	80	SKY HOOKS	20	M. Osborne	80	M	36"	soft yellow; violet horns
	80	INK PATTERNS	20	Thomas Johnson	'07	ML	36"	white w. blue-violet stitched edges
	80	SNAPSHOT	20	Thomas Johnson	'08	M	32"	S yellow, F mahogany w yellow center
73	84	EXPOSÉ	19	J. Ghio	'03	ML	34"	white S, white F w yellow band & blue lines
78	84	BOOGIE WOOGIE	19	H. Nichols	93	M-L	36"	wht. S./F. cloudy.violet
78	84	DEVONSHIRE CREAM	19	G. Sutton	99	ML-VL	37"	cream white
86	84	OKAPI POPPY	19	B. Kasperek	'03	M	37"	lav. pink S, amethyst F
	84	WILD ANGEL	19	Thomas Johnson	'06	ML	42"	white S, violet blend F w gold rim
73	89	BARBARA MY LOVE	18	Maryott	99	M	36"	white with apricot edges
95	89	ROMANTIC EVENING	18	J. Ghio	96	EL	36"	lilac S, dk red-purple F
100	89	PEGGY SUE	18	L. Lauer	'06	EML & Re	34"	Pink w red bd
100	89	REVERE	18	J. Ghio	'01	VE-EM	40"	white S w yellow halo, white F w blue rim
	89	GLAMOUR PANTS	18	Barry Blyth	'06-07	EM	36"	apricot S, burgundy F w apricot edge
61	94	SONG OF NORWAY	17	W. Luihn	79	M-L	38"	powder blue
73	94	PARISIAN DAWN	17	K. Keppel	'05	ML	36"	apricot S, mauve-cream blended F
98	94	WHISPERING SPIRITS	17	R. Ernst	'01	ML	35"	violet / white plic. w. gold edges
100	94	ALL NIGHT LONG	17	R. Duncan	'04	L	31"	purple black, ruffled
100	94	BRAZILIAN HOLIDAY	17	Schreiner	97	ML	36"	lavender white S, plum F
	94	AWESOME ALEX	17	Tom Burseen	'04	ML	36"	white S,,violet/cream F, purple horns
	100	BARBARA JEAN	16	Ronald Mullin	'05	EM	35"	silvery med. blue self
	100	GITANO	16	Keith Keppel	'08	ML	36"	S peach, F purple w salmon sunburst
	100	MONEY IN YOUR POCKET	16	Paul Black	'07	ML	44"	blue, F paler toward margin w white rays
	100	TOBACCO CHEW	16	Tom Burseen	'09	EM	35"	cream, F w yellow edges

New to the list: SCATTERBRAIN, INK PATTERNS, SNAPSHOT, BARBARA JEAN, GITANO, MONEY IN YOUR POCKET, TOBACCO CHEW

Returning to the list: WILD ANGEL, GLAMOUR PANTS, AWESOME ALEX

Runners-up: BRAZILIAN ART (15), EXPLICIT (15), MYSTIQUE (15), OZARK REBOUNDER (15), SOLAR FIRE (15)

Dropped from the list: EXPLICIT, MYSTIQUE, SOLAR FIRE, CHIEF JOHN JOLLY, GYPSY ROMANCE, JOYCE TERRY, AUGUSTINE, DUNCAN'S SMILING EYES, JUKE BOX HERO, BENEATH MY WINGS, DAZZLING GOLD, MIAH JANE, CODE RED ♣



Welcome to Dallas!

BY BONNIE J. NICHOLS, CHAIRMAN 2013/2014 AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY CONVENTIONS

On behalf of The Iris Society of Dallas we welcome you to Dallas! The 2012 summer was hot. However, fall rains have provided the fuel that has encouraged rhizomes to increase and prepare for the 2013 bloom season.

We hope you will join us for informative section meetings, a spectacular iris show, flower arranging workshops, iris boutique shopping, the silent auction, judges' training, and three days of garden tours.

Hotel Information

For those of you that attended the 2000 AIS Convention, you will remember the convention hotel, the Crowne Plaza. We are excited to return to the Crowne Plaza Hotel and to offer the group rate of \$99 per night (up to 4 people). Please contact the hotel directly at 1 (972) 980-8877 and ask for the "IS3" room rate.

We encourage you to register for the convention by February 1, 2013 for the best pricing. Full adult registration that includes the Welcome and Awards banquets, garden tours with lunches and judges' training is \$299 (by 2/1/13). The \$349 full registration price will be effective after February 1, 2013 and the \$399 full registration price will be effective after April 1, 2013.

On the mail-in registration form printed nearby, please note that we have added a space for your credit card number and expiration date information. The 2013 Convention accepts VISA and Mastercard.

Refunds for cancellations requested on or after April 1, 2013 will be made at the discretion of the Convention Committee.

Airport and Shuttle Information

Dallas Love Field Airport (DAL) is 12 miles from the convention hotel. Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport (DFW) is 17 miles away. While there is no a hotel airport shuttle available, there are ample taxis and shuttles available. Two services that are well known in the Dallas area are: Super Shuttle (www.supershuttle.com) and Go Yellow Checker Shuttle (www.goyellowcheckershuttle.com). Dallas Love Field is a smaller airport that is home base to Southwest Airlines, but also offers air service by Delta and United Airlines.

Convention Gardens

On Thursday (April 18th) we will travel west of Dallas to Tom Burseen's Garden in Grand Prairie. Grand



The Thompson Garden

Prairie is situated between Dallas and Fort Worth. Tom truly enjoys growing and breeding irises. Tom's smile and laughter are contagious. Besides the guest plants, a tour of Tom's seedling patch is a true delight for space-age iris lovers. Spoons, flounces, and pom-poms abound!

The next garden farther west is at the home of Happy and Gordon Carver. Happy and Gordon enjoy growing irises in the country. Gordon is Region 17's Regional Vice-President. Their home rests on top of a small hill overlooking Weatherford. The Carvers grow a large variety of irises including a wonderful collection of Louisiana irises along the driveway.

Another 25 miles farther west we will see cactus and mesquite trees and the Clark Botanical Garden. The Clark Garden is the master planting for the convention. My husband's uncle Max has once again invited us to plant irises and enjoy their garden. The Clark Garden was on tour in 1993 when Fort Worth hosted the national convention and also in 2000 when Dallas hosted the convention. The gardens have continued to grow and develop since 2000. The rose gardens have tripled in size and the swans have multiple lakes to call home. The Clark Garden is a test garden for the American Rose Society. Texas bluebonnets should be in full bloom for everyone's picture-taking enjoyment.

On Friday, April 19th we will stay close to Dallas and enjoy the local gardens. Our Mesquite Garden will be on tour. Our garden occupies a little over two acres in southeast Dallas County. Hooker and I grow our iris and daylily seedlings in this garden. Attendees will

enjoy hundreds of Louisiana iris seedlings as well as the bearded ones. The Mesquite Garden is also home to Texas bluebonnets and other Texas wildflowers.

We will have lunch at the Dallas Arboretum that overlooks the tranquil White Rock Lake. Sixty six acres of lush landscape and various specialty gardens are incredibly beautiful. Texas iris hybridizers are featured at the Arboretum. Besides the gardens, the gift shop is definitely a place to spend some time.

The garden of Dell Perry in Plano will also be on our Friday tour. Dell is a longtime member of the Iris Society of Dallas and grows many different kinds of perennials besides irises. Dell will not have any 2013 convention guest plants, though she will have 2014 convention plants.

The fourth garden on tour Friday will be the Addison Garden which is located only a few minutes from the convention hotel. The Addison Garden is second only to the Clark Garden for the number of guest plants. The garden will be open to visitors all during the convention so you may visit the garden multiple times to enjoy the ever-changing bloom.

On Saturday, April 20th we will travel north to the Sherman –Denison area to enjoy two beautiful gardens. The Brown Garden, located on Lake Texoma is home to over 500 bearded, spuria, and Louisiana irises.

The Thompson garden located northeast of Dallas encompasses 12 acres, half of which is untouched and wooded. The garden features historic irises from the late 1800s to 1980s.



The third garden on Friday's tour is the home garden of Martha McDowell in Anna. While Martha does not have any 2013 convention guest plants, she grows over 600 irises and will be on tour for the 2014 convention.

In addition to classroom judges' training during the convention, there will be garden judges' training and exhibition show judges' training. We are also planning an iris floral design hands-on workshop during the convention.

AIS Boutique

Diana Winship is coordinating the AIS Boutique for the 2013 Dallas convention. It is open to both members and non-members for a nominal fee. For additional information about exhibiting in the boutique, please contact Diana at diana.winship@earthlink.net or at 972-234-5742.

An Extra Special Event following the AIS Convention (April 21-23, 2013)

The Iris Society of Dallas will be hosting the Society for Louisiana Irises (SLI) Convention immediately following the AIS National Convention. The hotel will be the same for both events. There will be two days of garden tours and two banquets with a Louisiana iris show and plant auctions.

There will be six gardens on tour for the SLI convention. Only the Addison, Perry, and Brown gardens are repeat gardens from the AIS convention.

The Reed Garden is located in Farmers Branch. Mr. Reed is President of the Iris Society of Dallas. He and his wife, Mary Ellen are active growing irises, daylilies and roses.

The Gardens of Robert and Bobbie Mason in Red Oak (south of Dallas) have every square inch adorned with blooming plants, shrubs and trees. They have many tall bearded iris varieties, including historic, as well as some of Marie Caillet's Louisiana favorites.

The Nichols' Northaven Garden (our home garden) will be on tour. Hooker grows his reselected Louisiana iris seedlings at our home garden. We also have a large selection of spuria and Louisiana irises from various hybridizers. At our Northaven Garden we grow daylilies, roses, clematis, sunflowers, moon flowers, *Echinacea*, and unusual morning glories.

Convention full registration by February 1, 2013 is a discounted rate of \$185. Full registration includes bus transportation to six gardens, lunch each day of the bus tours, Louisiana iris flower show, judges' training, welcome dinner with slide show of new Louisiana iris cultivars, plant giveaways, and the awards banquet.

The room rate of \$99 (up to 4 people) is the same for the SLI convention as for the AIS Convention. Ask for the "LI3" room rate.

2014 American Iris Society Convention in DALLAS - yes, DÉJÀ VU!

The Iris Society of Dallas is making AIS history! Yes, The Iris Society of Dallas extended an invitation to the American Iris Society Board of Directors to host the 2014 AIS convention. What an honor to host not only one AIS convention but two back-to-back. We have special events planned for you...

In 2013 you will see 2-year clumps of guest plants plus 2014 guest iris plants. In 2014 when you return, you will see three-year clumps of guest plants along with two-year clumps.

We want to see you for both 2013 and 2014 AIS Conventions! The Iris Society of Dallas is a proud long-standing member of AIS and Region 17. Our club, formed over 50 years ago remains committed to continuing to promote the culture and pleasure of growing irises with passion. Please join us in Dallas and make history with us by attending the 2013 AIS Convention, 2013 SLI Convention, and the 2014 AIS Convention. You will see fantastic irises, beautiful Texas landscapes, and enjoy Texas southern hospitality.

Please visit our website at www.irises-dallas.org for more information and pictures of the gardens or please feel free to contact me at:

Bonnie J Nichols, Chairman 2013/14 AIS Convention
3365 Northaven Road, Dallas, Texas 75229
(214) 352-2191; bjnhtn@aol.com ♣



American Iris Society Convention Registration

April 15-20, 2013

Crowne Plaza Hotel

14315 Midway Road Addison, TX 75001



Contact the Crowne Plaza - 972-980-8877 - ask for the "IS3" room rates.

Please complete and mail this form so that it **arrives no later than April 1, 2013**. Registrations will be acknowledged by email, unless no email is supplied. You will receive a packet with additional information, name tags, and event tickets at check-in.

PLEASE PRINT - Fill out one form per person attending.

Name to appear on name badge: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

	By 2/1	By 3/1	After 4/1		TOTAL
Full Adult Registration	\$299	\$349	\$399	=	
Includes Welcome and Awards banquets, Garden Tours, Judges Training and convention book					
Full Youth Registration (18 and under)	\$150	\$200	\$250	=	
Garden Tours ONLY (April 18, 19 and 20)	\$200	\$250	\$300	=	
Includes bus, lunches, in-garden Judges Training and convention book					
Banquets ONLY (No garden tour, judges training or convention book)					
Welcome Banquet	\$50	\$50	\$60	=	
Awards Banquet	\$50	\$50	\$60	=	
TOTAL Enclosed					

Payment Method:

☐ **CHECK** - Make Payable to "Iris Society of Dallas"

☐ **CREDIT CARD:** ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD Card Number _____ Exp Month ____ Year ____

Card Holder's name as it appears on the card: _____

Refunds for cancellations requested on or after April 1, 2013, will be made at the discretion of the Convention Committee.

MEALS Please select from the following choices:

Welcome Banquet - April 17

☐ Chicken Florentine

☐ Smoked Brisket

☐ Vegetarian

Awards Banquet - April 20

☐ Pesto Chicken

☐ Sirloin Steak

☐ Vegetarian

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS:

☐ Gluten Free

☐ Lactose intolerant

☐ Diabetic

☐ Other - please describe here: _____

SPECIAL NEEDS: If special accommodations are needed for disabilities, please describe here: _____

GEEK DINNER: Reservations are made separately.

Contact: John & Joanne Prass-Jones (510) 795-9723 aiselectronicsvcs@irises.org

Send Registration and Payment to: Dell Perry 800 Purcell Dr. Plano, TX 75025 972-816-3418 seandelirises@yahoo.com

Visit the AIS Convention website for more information and garden photos. <http://www.irises-dallas.org/2013-AIS-Convention.aspx>



Maximize your trip - Stay for the Society for Louisiana Iris Convention - April 21-23, 2013

Same hotel. Same room rate. Separate registration required.

Visit the SLI Convention website for more information.

<http://www.irises-dallas.org/2013-SLI-Convention.aspx>

Calling All Hybridizers

Here's a way to get your new introduction out there and get a little advertising too! The AIS National Convention attendees are all iris fanatics and many are AIS judges that would love to grow your new introductions. AIS will be very thankful for your generosity in donating iris in the form of certificates for the silent auction at the upcoming convention in Dallas, Texas. For each iris you are generous enough to donate, please send the following to dkstrauss@swbell.net:

Your Name
Address to mail coupon to
Amount of postage to be sent with coupon
Deadline for coupon to be sent to you
Iris Name, Description and Color photo
Garden Logo (if you want it on the coupon)

The coupons will be made for you if you wish or you can make them yourself and mail them to Debra Strauss by April 1 or bring them to the convention.

As a special way to advertise your generosity, Debra will make a poster that stands behind your coupons and bid sheets with your name, pictures of your garden and a logo (if you send it via email). Please send an email with a list of the iris name(s) you plan to donate, if you are making the coupons, so she can make a poster for you.

Get in on the action and get your newest introductions into the hands of your adoring iris lovers! ♣



Clean Out & Donate

The American Iris Society needs to do a little fundraising and can help you de-clutter. Please donate your iris artifacts, decorations, books, journals, lights, garden-related items, furniture, or anything iris-related that you want to give would be greatly appreciated. You can bring them to the convention or mail your donations ahead of time to:

Debbie Strauss
2213 Hereford Blvd
Midland TX 79707-5012

Nick Stewart
2808 NW 21st Pl
Lawton OK 73505-2114

Get Ready!

There are 22 unique and exceptional regions that make up the American Iris Society. In Dallas, be ready to be amazed. Each region is making a basket full of items that represent their area of the United States. These lovely donations are for the silent auction! Displayed along with these wonderful baskets at the convention you will see a map of where the Region is located and pictures about its beauty. Be sure to check the AIS Facebook page a month or so before the convention to see pictures of some of the baskets and perhaps bid online. Look for these in Dallas, place your bids, and take home a bit of fun from across our beautiful country. ♣

Convention Schedule

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2013

10:00am – 12:00pm Registration (Setup)

2:00pm – 5:00pm 2013 Convention
Committee Meeting

MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2013

8:00am – 10:00pm Boutique (Setup)

10:00am - 1:00pm Registration

1:00pm - 10:00pm AIS Board Of Directors Meeting
(Break 5:00pm - 7:00pm Dinner)

5:00pm - 10:00pm AIS Silent Auction (Setup)

5:00pm - 8:00pm Registration

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2013

8:00am – 6:00pm Boutique (Setup)

8:00am - 6:00pm AIS Silent Auction (Setup)

8:00am - 9:00am RVP Counselors Reception

8:00am - 8:00pm Registration

9:00am - 10:30am RVP Board Of Counselors
Meeting(All RVP's)

10:30am – 11:30am Judges Training Chairpersons
Meeting

11:00am - 12:00pm Dwarf Iris Society
Board Meeting

12:00pm - 1:00pm Spuria Iris Society
Board Meeting

1:00pm - 2:00pm HIPS Board Meeting

2:00pm - 3:00pm SIGNA Board Meeting

2:00pm - 3:00pm Tall Bearded Iris Society
Board Meeting

3:00pm - 4:00pm Reblooming Iris Society
Board Meeting

4:00pm – 5:00pm Median Iris Society Board Meeting

5:00pm – 6:00pm Society For Japanese Irises
Board Meeting

6:00pm - 7:00pm Aril Society International
Board Meeting

6:00pm - 7:30pm AIS Foundation Meeting

6:00pm – 10:00pm Boutique Opens

6:00pm - 10:00pm AIS Silent Auction Opens

8:00pm - 9:00pm AIS Section & Cooperating
Societies Meeting

9:15pm - 11:15pm AIS Board Of Directors Meeting

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2013

8:00am - 7:00pm Registration

8:00am - 9:00am Society For Siberian Irises Program

9:00am – 10:00am Iris Encyclopedia Workshop

10:00am – 11:00am Welcome For First Time Attendees

10:00am – 6:00pm Boutique

10:00am - 6:00pm AIS Silent Auction

10:00am - 6:00pm Iris Show

11:00am – 12:00pm Spuria Iris Society Program

12:00pm - 1:00pm Reblooming Iris Society Program

1:00pm - 2:00pm Social Media – Facebook Workshop

2:00pm - 3:00pm Society For Louisiana
Irises Program

3:00pm - 4:00pm Tall Bearded Iris Society Program

4:00pm - 5:00pm HIPS Program

5:00pm - 6:00pm Aril Society International Program

5:30pm - 6:30pm Bus Captains Meeting

5:30pm - 6:30pm Youth Reception

6:30pm - 7:30pm No Host Reception-Cash Bar

7:30pm - 9:00pm Welcome Dinner
 9:00pm - 10:00pm Boutique
 9:00pm - 10:00pm AIS Silent Auction

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2013

7:30am - 8:00am Registration
 8:00am - 4:00pm Garden Tours
 (busses load at 7:30am)
 4:00pm - 8:00pm Registration
 4:30pm - 5:30pm Bus Captains Meeting
 4:30pm - 5:30pm Median Iris Society Program
 5:30pm - 6:30pm AIS Affiliated Societies Meeting
 6:00pm - 7:30pm Youth Pizza Party
 6:00pm - 10:00pm Boutique
 6:00pm - 10:00pm AIS Silent Auction
 (Bids Close 10:00pm)
 6:30pm - 7:30pm Society For Japanese Irises Program
 8:00pm - 9:30pm Judges Training

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2013

7:30am - 8:00am Registration
 7:00am AIS Silent Auction Winning
 Bids Posted
 8:00am - 4:00pm Garden Tours
 (busses load at 7:30am)
 4:00pm - 8:00pm Registration
 4:30pm - 5:30pm Bus Captains Meeting
 4:30pm - 5:30pm Dwarf Iris Society Program
 5:30pm - 8:00pm Geek Dinner & Auction
 6:00pm - 10:00pm Boutique
 6:15pm - 7:45pm Artistic Design Workshop
 6:30pm - 11:00pm AIS Silent Auction (All money for
 winning bids must be turned in)
 8:00pm - 9:30pm Judges Training
 9:00pm - 10:30pm Past, Present, Future Convention
 Chairpersons Meeting

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2013

7:30am - 8:00am Registration
 8:00am - 4:00pm Garden Tours
 (busses load at 7:30am)
 4:30pm - 5:30pm SIGNA Program
 4:30pm - 5:30pm Bus Captains Meeting
 5:00pm - 6:30pm Boutique
 5:00pm Deadline For Ballots
 5:00pm - 6:30pm Registration
 5:30pm - 6:30pm Society For Pacific Coast
 Natives Program
 6:30pm - 7:30pm No Host Reception-Cash Bar
 7:30pm Awards Banquet
 9:00pm - 10:30pm Boutique (Closed for Cleanup)



Hooker Nichols and Tom Burseen

ROSS ROAD IRIS
 OVER 800 VARIETIES OF REGISTERED IRIS
 Pre-Sales begin January 1, 2013
 MONA L. BAISCH GARDENER
 YOU'LL FIND US ON-LINE AT
<http://www.rossroadiris.com> - 208-550-5356



Reticulata Iris

The Journey Continues

BY ALAN MCMURTRIE, ONTARIO

In 2010, Alan McMurtrie was awarded the British Iris Society's Foster Memorial Plaque for his work with Reticulata iris. He has previously written two articles for the Bulletin of The American Iris Society about his hybridizing work.

This is the third article about my work with *reticulata iris*¹. Let's do a quick recap. *Reticulata iris* start blooming right as the snow disappears, which makes them the perfect plant to have to help shake off the winter blahs. After a long winter, you can imagine what a delight it is to see these first signs of spring. Typically that's the last week of March here in Toronto, Ontario, though in recent winters they've started flowering as early as mid-March due to warmer weather. *Reticulata iris* typically flower in blue and purple. There is also the lovely lemon yellow *Iris danfordiae*. When new varieties are introduced into the Dutch trade, it's more of the same: another shade of blue or purple. What I have done is open up that world to a rainbow of color.

In part, I did this by crossing *Iris sophenensis* and *I. danfordiae*. The result was "just blues"². The first generation hybrids (F_1) were all blues, with hair-like standards. These very narrow standards are a result of the bristle standards of *I. danfordiae*, which is only five millimeters long, combining with a normal standard (typically 7 x 30 mm in dimensions). In further generations the standards tend to be half-length hairs, but on occasion can be almost normal standards.

It was in the second generation that things began to open up. The very first F_2 hybrid was 'Starlight' (94-HW-1), a white with blue accents. To think of colors like light switches, in 'Starlight' the blue got turned off, the yellow got turned off, and revealed an underlying pattern that I refer to as accents, consisting of blue dotting near the throat of the fall and blue stripes along either side of the style arm. Overall the F_2 hybrids can be classified into five groups: whites (with blue or green accents), yellows (*danfordiae*-like), blues (light blue to dark blue), yellow-blues (yellow with blue spotting, yellow with blue veining, through greens, and all the way to browns), and what I call "spotted light blue-green." Adding a third *reticulata* that I collected near Çat, Turkey really opened things up and showed, for example, that orange is possible.

What I would like to do in this article is let you know 1) what exciting new hybrids have bloomed for the first time in the past five years, 2) let you know how things are going in getting them to market, and 3) provide some additional thoughts about cultivation.

What's New

So what new and exciting things have bloomed in the past five years? First, let's remember that here in Toronto it takes five (occasionally four) years to go from a seed to a flowering bulb. Interestingly that means that nearly all the hybrids that bloomed for the first time since my last article were already planted when it was published. Can you imagine what even more exciting things are waiting to open in the next few years from the seed that is currently planted?

What I've been able to accomplish in just a couple of generations is truly impressive, even magical! Of course along the way there have been a lot of ordinary blues, yellows, etc. produced. My goal is to do whatever I can to break away from the ordinary and come up with the unusual. I keep asking myself what I can do to shake up the genes and bring more amazing things to life. One thing I would really love to create is a pink *reticulata*. At this point I'm not sure that it is possible, but let's have fun trying.

Getting to Market

It's been a slow, uphill battle, getting into the Dutch market. The first grower began testing my hybrids 15 years ago. At one point there were 4 growers testing them. Two dropped out and are pursuing their own hybridizing efforts. Their paths are different from mine. One seems to be working with tetraploid blues and purples, and the other is focusing mainly on *I. winogradowii* hybrids. The original grower and his son, Wim de Goede and Mark, have continued to building up stock of several of my hybrids and are close to being able to start wholesale sales of a couple.

I'll just point out that each of the growers knew about the others, and they were given exclusive rights to the varieties they were growing. I had hopes that we could eventually form a cooperative of sorts³. I knew there was a significant potential in the direction I was headed, and that no one grower would be interested in all of my best hybrids⁴. It was also a matter of finding out what each of the growers was interested in growing and marketing. In a sense it's too bad my work wasn't five to 10 years further along. If it had been, there's a possibility they would be propagating my hybrids today.

1 Previous articles: 'Reticulata Iris: A Whole New World', October 2007 Bulletin

'An Adventure With Reticulatas', July 2000 Bulletin

2 Wim de Goede, in reference to the fact there are already lots of blues in the trade.

3 Interestingly, now several years later, these growers are cooperating on other bulbs such as tulips.

4 From the point-of-view of large-scale propagation and the fact that no more than ~15% of land is used at any one time for *reticulatas* due to crop rotation.

Maybe I really just don't know what the market for Reticulata Iris is like. Certainly I had, and still have, hopes of being able to grow the market once people see what wonderful new hybrids are available. I don't believe that the market is a fixed size, and that if something new is introduced, something needs to be taken out. That's probably true if all you are doing is introducing another blue. People only have an appetite for so many blues.

In recent years 'Alida' and 'Pixie' (both sports from 'Harmony'), one lighter blue and the other violet, have been introduced. A new variety 'Blue Note', which is a sport of Pauline, is showing up in Dutch cultivation statistics (indicating the stock is fairly large). The two firms I referred to above, clearly intend to introduce several of their own hybrids in the next couple of years, and I know of an additional firm that also has some new hybrids/sports based on *I. winogradowii*. I need to get with it and built up stock of several of my hybrids pictured here. I can't just wait around and let others take over the market by getting there first.

One of the most frustrating things is how long it takes to build up stock (see table below). This is due to the scale of the problem—to go from a single bulb to hundreds of bulbs, or better yet, tens of thousands, while doing so at a reasonable price. The initial propagation is quite expensive because it's all hand labor. Once you have a couple of thousand bulbs, then you can use machines, which brings the cost down, but it still takes many, many years to build up the numbers. In theory, a lab can be used to shorten the process, but there's a significant up-front cost involved.

With a lab, once you've initiated a clone, a year can roughly be simulated by a 12-week cycle. There's also a lengthy hardening off process required prior to delivery of the bulblets. The bulblets then need to be planted out and grown to full-size bulbs over the course of about two years, resulting in an overall process that takes four to five years.

Looking at the table you can see that if something spectacular blooms for the first time this year, it will take 6-7 years before there are 100 flowering-size bulbs. Another three years and there could be 1000 bulbs. Still another three years and there could be 10,000. Twelve-plus years later, we're close to having enough to start sales.

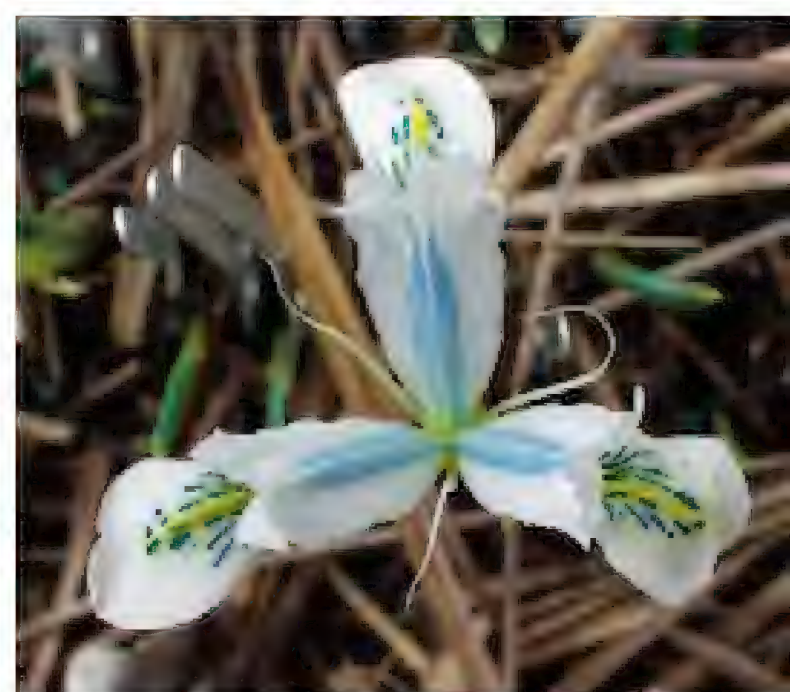
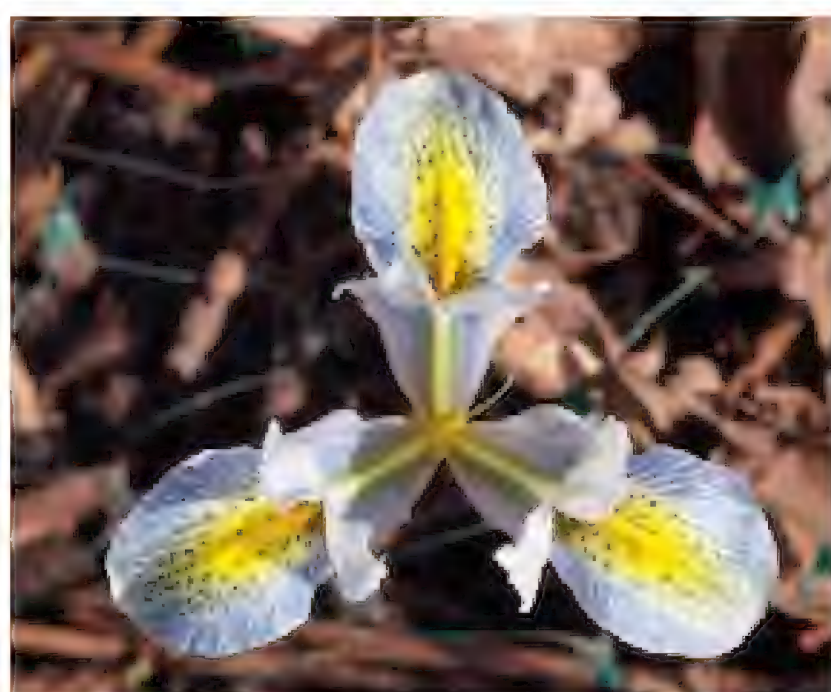
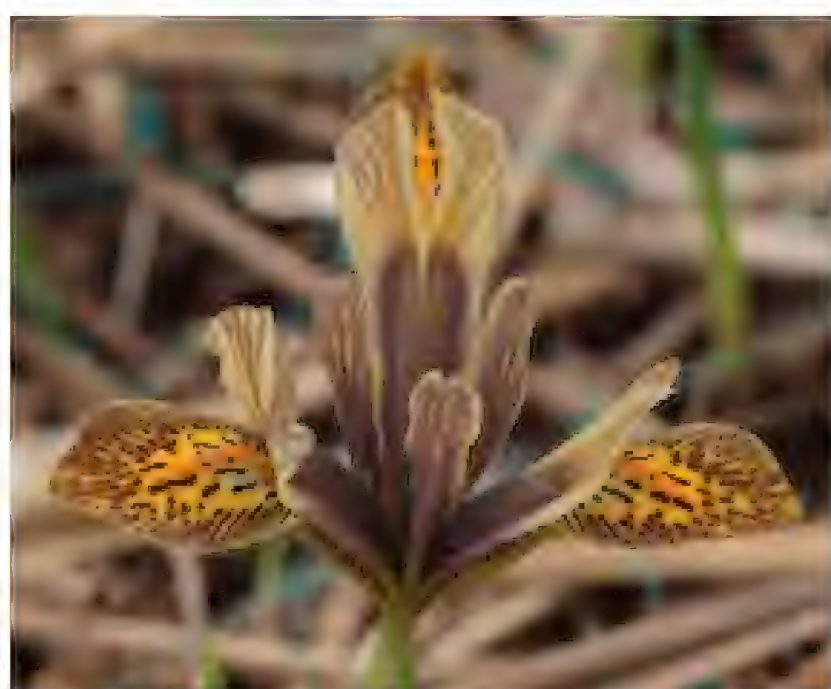
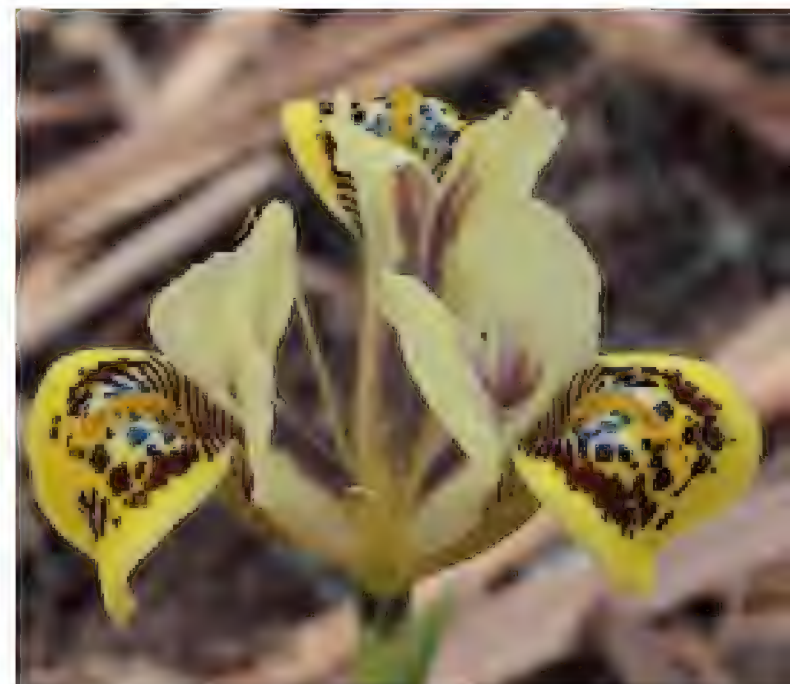
Keep in mind that the rate of increase varies from year to year, and there are no guarantees. You can have problems that can cause setbacks. Generally when this happens it takes two or more years to clear up the problem, and then rebuild the stock to where it had been. In the past I have made use of a lab in Holland, but there were issues. The work seemed to go well. A quantity of bulblets was delivered. However on one occasion the grower told me that only 10% survived, and in two subsequent years, none survived! The lab claims they now know what the problem was and that the issues have been resolved.

Don't forget that lab work is expensive. To get the most advantage it really needs to be done in the early years and in sufficient quantity. Of course there's the very, very important issue of needing grower commitment. When I first started the lab work, growers questioned why I would have done that. To them it didn't make sense. Yes, it was a risk. I wanted to get to market sooner, rather than later, but of course what good is that if in the end they don't go forward with any of the varieties that I put in the lab (that's essentially what happened). I knew at the very least I would gain an understanding of the process, and the variability of the rate of increase between the clones, as well as the variability of the cycles. And fundamentally I would see whether or not the lab could successfully tissue culture $2n=18$ and $2n=20$ reticulata iris.

If all you need is a small number of bulbs like 25 or 50, there are things you can do to help get there reasonably quickly. For example, you can replant every year, bringing any small bulbs/bulblets up closer to the soil surface, as well as give them more space and a little bit of fertilizer at the right time.

Table 1. Rate of increase (y-axis) over time.

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	...	2027
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	...	14
2x	1	2	4	8	16	32	64	128	256	512	1024	2048	...	16,384
2.2x	1	2	4	8	17	37	81	178	391	860	1892	4162	...	44,314
2.3x	1	2	4	9	20	46	105	241	554	1274	2930	6739	...	81,988
2.4x	1	2	4	9	21	50	120	288	691	1658	3979	9549	...	132,000



Listed top row to bottom, left to right:

'Ruby'; 03-HW-1; 'Holland Glory'; 03-FQ-1; 05-GQ-3; 05-HW-1; 03-CV-4; 03-AQ-1; 'Regal'; 05-GQ-3; 05-BL-4; 'Snow and Sky'

Wim has now been growing 'Spot On' (87-DQ-1) for 15 years. It was amazing to walk the field in 2011 and pace out 32 m of it (the rows are 1.5 m wide). In 2012 I paced out 77 m and was told that the bed had been planted denser. As I write this, the field is being planted for 2013. I won't be surprised if this spring I am able to pace off 190 m or slightly more. Wow. Now we're getting somewhere! A guess might be that's 35,000 bulbs.

On one hand that's quite something. But the new variety 'Blue Note', had 0.25 hectares under cultivation last year, which I estimated to be more than 250,000 bulbs. Depending on how many were sold, substantially more than that were likely replanted this past fall.

'White Caucasus' isn't one of my hybrids as such. Rather it appeared one year in my garden in some collected bulbs from the Lake Sevan area of Armenia. Wim and Mark have released only a small quantity of bulbs of 'White Caucasus' over the past 3 years while they continue to build up stock. As a result it can be purchased from several English bulb retailers, as well as Bulbs-Bollen.nl in Holland (European Union orders only).

Mark says my hybrids are "not complete." What he means by that is, he wants them to have large flowers and normal standards—to be normal *reticulata* iris, so-to-speak. The reality is, two of the original three parents are small, so by their very nature, the siblings are going to tend to be small. *I. danfordiae*, which has a bristle instead of a standard, sells by the millions every year. It's understandable that its siblings aren't going to tend to have normal standards, but does that really matter?

I understand the idea of large flowers—they attract your eye from a distance. However there's nothing wrong with small flowers. They're perfect for rock garden settings. If you want a larger patch, just plant more bulbs. For visual impact it also helps if they are brightly colored (e.g. whites, yellows, oranges). Of course what the grower is looking at is the large-scale commercial market.

Unlike daffodils or tulips, *reticulatas* can't be used as cut flowers. They can however be grown and sold in pots. This is referred to as the "green trade." In this case larger flowers means fewer bulbs are needed to fill a pot with blooms. For a given selling price, that means the grower gets more per bulb. Alternatively, the pot could be sold for less (i.e. making it more attractive for the customer to buy), but I'm more convinced the middle man will simply take a larger profit, rather than pass the cost savings on to the customer.

With all of the time and effort taken to build up a stock, and the economies of scale, growers want to find the perfect flower, and grow it in large quantities for years and years. In my mind, as a consumer, I want something

new every year, just like fashion. Yes, I enjoy what I have, but I also get excited about trying a couple more. With a wide range of colors people can pick what fancies them at the time. One year browns, another whites, and yet another oranges or yellows.

I think it's unfortunate that we keep seeing the same old varieties in garden centers year after year. It is nice to have certain classic old favorites, for example 'Tete-a-Tete' in daffodils. It's a great cultivar. I have this same feeling for lovely dark blue *I. reticulata*. Can you imagine if bearded irises were like that? We would still be growing the tailored varieties of the 1930s and 1940s in limited colors. A few from that era, like 'Wabash' for instance, are quite nice, but look at how far bearded irises have come today and continue to evolve.

In northern Holland there is a flower show, called the Lentetuin ("Spring Garden" in Dutch), held at the end of February in Breezand. In 2012 my hybrid 'Avalanche' (98-NP-4), a bright white with navy accents, was awarded "Primeur Lentetuin 2012."

So, why the Dutch market? My dream is to one day have my hybrids widely available. It would be wonderful to go into a local garden centre in the fall and see one or more of my hybrids being sold along with the other boxes of dry bulbs. Also, I don't have room here for commercial production, even on a small scale. I just have enough for all of my hybridizing work. As well it's a matter of where do I want to put my time, along with what I'm most interested in; to which the clear answer is hybridizing. In addition, the Dutch have great growing conditions as well as a distribution and marketing network.

To date I have introduced almost 40 hybrids, primarily through Janis Ruksans in Latvia. They are all ones that Wim was not interested in going through with, but I thought were quite nice, or in the case of the F1 "just blues," represented a significant breakthrough.

Over the years I've given a number of talks about my work, but the trouble was I never had any bulbs to sell⁵. I finally gave in and have started a small-scale "commercial" operation at a farm about two hours away near Lake Erie. At the moment it takes a solid day to get the bulbs planted, and it takes two days to dig them, plus another day for sorting, etc. The benefit for me, and the real reason I am doing this, is for off-site propagation, particularly of some of my newest hybrids (to give me additional bulbs for hybridizing). The only reason this is possible now, is because I'm retired.

5 The issue is not about any money; it's about letting other people also enjoy my hybrids. The money is still important to pay expenses, and is a way for people show they appreciate what I'm doing.

Garden Import, a mail-order bulb retailer here in Toronto sold three of my hybrids for the first time this year: 'Starlight' (94-HW-1, white with blue accents), 'Storm' (98-NP-2, nearly solid black veining and spotting on a yellow ground with blue style arms), and 'Sea Green' (97-CQ-1, green and dark blue that slowly fades to light blue when the flowers finish). Interestingly, they sold out in reverse order. I am looking forward to seeing what I can supply next year, and how well customers respond.

Cultivation Tips

I highly recommend replanting your *reticulata* iris every two or three years. Give the bulbs a reasonable amount of space. It's actually a good idea to plant some in another part of the garden. That way if something happens to one patch, such as a critter digging it up, you'll always have the others. If you plant some in a sunny location and some in a shady location, you can extend the growing season. It's also a good idea to plant some early varieties and some later ones.

If you happen to plant seeds, be sure to cover them each winter with a mulch of leaves, or better yet, straw (leaves have a tendency to blow off). This isn't to protect them from freezing. It's actually to protect against sudden cold snaps. If there's a warm spell for several days or a week, the seeds/seedlings might germinate. Their cell sap starts to flow. If you then have a sudden deep cold snap, the cells don't have the same antifreeze capability. All that the leaves and straw do is act as a buffer to keep the soil surface frozen. Once the snow has melted you can remove most of the straw.

Last Words

When you consider the world of *reticulata* iris is blue and purples, what I've been able to do is truly incredible. Now if only I could get other Dutch bulb growers to realize that, so together we can get them into your garden! My wish for you—plant a few new *reticulata* iris this year. ❀

For more photos and information about Alan's work, visit www.Reticulatas.com.



'Sea Green'



'White Caucasus'



'Down To Earth'



Whither MDBs and Pumilas?

BY ELM JENSEN, WASHINGTON

For those unfamiliar with what the requirements are for an iris to be considered a miniature dwarf bearded, let us take a quick look at what the AIS Handbook for Judges and Show Officials (pg. 110, 112) has to say:

“bearded irises up to 20 cm (8 inches) in height. Stems are usually unbranched; flowers are 4 to 7.5 cm (1.6 to 3 inches) wide; earliest blooming of all bearded irises. (...) Most recent varieties are one-half to three-quarters *Iris pumila*. (...) The balance of the percentage in hybrid miniature dwarf bearded irises is frequently complex, deriving from tetraploid tall or border bearded irises, the 40-chromosome complex of species recently reclassified as *I. lutescens*, and, increasingly, *I. aphylla*. Neatly clipped, bushy beards are preferable to thin, straggly ones.”

These little irises have taken a backseat to the tall, border, miniature tall, intermediate, and standard dwarf bearded irises because most iris growers today

prefer a much splashier, more colorful display in their yards and gardens. Another reason for their not being as popular is that they do not do well in the warmest areas of the United States. Yet, for those of us who do grow and love these little ones, when winter is on the wane and spring is barely starting, the MDBs are a most heartwarming, joyful experience to behold. They are good plants to spice up the rock garden, but they also form mats or clumps in the garden when planted in front of standard dwarfs and other, taller varieties. It is indeed a treat to walk into the garden and see them in bloom. They make up for their diminutive stature with myriad colors that when viewed from above resemble small carpets. Each tiny rhizome can produce more than one scape (a short, thin, leafless stalk growing directly from the ground). When fertilized, the flowers form seed pods that rest right at ground level. As a result, the tagging of the seed pods can be very tricky because in wet regions (as well as in areas where summer watering is done), the writing on the tags can be washed away, and the tags also make good food for insects.

Sixty years ago, the hybridizing of MDBs was at its peak. In the 1940s Robert Schreiner and Paul Cook imported seeds and plants of *I. pumila*. From these, four were named and became important early breeders—the tiny ‘Nana’ (Schreiner’s, NR), the pollen fertile ‘Cretica’ (Atchley, 1929), the pod fertile ‘Carpathia’ (Schreiner’s, NR), and ‘Sulina’ (Schreiner’s, NR), all of which have disappeared over the years. These four varieties are present in many of the family lines of modern varieties in the classes of bearded irises. *Iris pumila* became important in the development of MDBs and SDBs because it is a tetraploid. Oddly enough, as far as has been determined, *I. pumila* arose from two diploids, *I. pseudopumila* and *I. attica*.

Of the modern MDBs introduced today, *I. pumila* does not figure into their immediate parentages. Many are descended from SDBs and that leaves me wondering about the statement in the judging handbook as to recent varieties having that much *I. pumila* content. Personally, I find that some modern MDBs grow way beyond the height limit here on the high desert plateau in eastern Washington State. One in particular grew 16” tall, and I finally discarded it.

All this brings me to how MDBs factor into my hybridizing work. Ten years ago, I began intercrossing clones of *I. pumila*, some which I obtained from the Willotts, some species and named varieties which I purchased from American hybridizers, some which I grew from SIGNA seed and other sources, and some which I purchased from European growers or received from a fellow in Russia. At first I only intercrossed these, because I liked their smaller height as well as the fact that they took up less room than other bearded irises. Then I became fascinated by them. Besides intercrossing them, I tried to cross them with

MDBs, though many MDBs, because of their complex bloodlines, are infertile. However, 2012 proved me wrong about some that had seemed infertile for several years. Perhaps weather had a lot to do with that, but for some reason this year several crosses of pumilas with MDBs produced pods with very good seeds. Those MDB varieties which, for some reason, proved to be fertile this year were ‘Behold Titania’ (Hager, 2003) (pod, pollen), ‘Coral Carpet’ (Chapman, 1999) (pod), ‘Keeno’ (Johnson, 2009) (pollen), ‘Peepers’ (Miller, 1991) (pod), and ‘Pirate’s Apprentice’ (Hager, 2003) (pollen). One species which proved to be a good pod parent was the yellow form of *I. taurica*, which Rodionenko calls the “Russian pumila”. As I have observed the results of using *I. pumila* hybrids, I have given up using purple forms because this color is too dominant.

One of my pure *I. pumila* seedlings that I find delightful is ‘Sudden Butterflies’, a 3.5-inch tall variety that I registered as SPEC-X in 2010. It has jaunty, flaring falls with diffused fall spots and beards which I prefer to call “feathered” rather than “straggly.” Another seedling that I registered also in 2010 as an MDB is a six-inch tall variety named ‘My Huckleberry Friend’, which arose from a cross of Marky Smith’s SDB ‘Photon’ (2005) by an *I. pumila* seedling of mine “Jpum8.” I find the veining laid against the mauve background and the orange-in-the-throat beard makes a pleasing combination. ‘Convection’, another MDB I registered in 2010, came from crossing an SDB by a named pure *I. pumila* hybrid: ‘Fiesta Flame’ X ‘Lesser Goldfinch’. I have used the named *I. pumila* ‘Crouching Tiger’ (Tankesley-Clarke, 2003) with the shorter quarter arilbred ‘Concerto Grosso’ (Mathes, 1998) to produce CGxCT1, a six-inch

Jensen seedling (LitDB X Crot) #3



Jensen seedling (‘Anacrusis’ X ‘Crouching Tiger’)



'Sudden Butterflies'



'Convection'



Jensen seedling Jpum8



seedling that produces mats of flowers with small foliage like its *I. pumila* mother. I used 'Crouching Tiger' pollen on the regelia species *I. stolonifera* and ended up with a wee, halfbred arilmedian that has the regelia form. Other seedlings from my breeding that I am working with are my *I. pumila* hybrid Jpum8; LDBxCT3, a pure *I. pumila* whose falls have wide white shoulders that share prominent maroon-brown fall spots with wide yellow fall tips; and a sib to 'Convection' that has prominent red-brown spots on the falls and orange beards that have pale yellow darts at their tips.

I wonder—do we really want MDBs with only flaring falls? Do we want larger flowers on MDBs that look more

like SDBs and are borne on branched stems? Do we want MDBs whose parents and other recent ancestors come only from SDBs? Are we limited to having MDBs that only have bushy beards? Should pure *I. pumila* hybrids be excluded from being classed as MDBs because they don't have rounded standards and flaring falls? I like MDBs that are in the three to five inch height range, and that's why I keep playing "MDB roulette" with pumilas and other things. I wish more people were working with MDBs. ♣

At 75, Wenatchee, Washington hybridizer Elm Jensen is busy hybridizing little irises. If you'd like to correspond with him about his work, he can be reached at Elmsterj@aol.com.

Culturally Speaking



Germination of beardless iris seeds BOB HOLLINGWORTH

Everything I do is focused on getting a quick start for the seedlings before they are planted out in order to save a year before they flower. The idea is to go from cross to flower in 2 years.

- 1 After harvest and drying, the seeds from each cross are placed in small synthetic mesh (tulle) bags.
- 2 They are then soaked in water for 10-14 days with daily water changes to remove germination inhibitors. (I also tried the old trick of hanging them in the toilet tank for regular water changes, but that's more amusing than helpful).
- 3 The seeds are then transferred to diluted Clorox (about 1:7 dilution) for an hour or so to surface sterilize them, rinsed quickly twice with boiled water, drained and put in a sealed container in the refrigerator for 3 months (October through December).
- 4 After this vernalization, they are transferred to sterile closed jars (e.g. Mason jars) in the light and at room temperature (often with some bottom warmth to 80-85°F if they prove a bit reluctant to germinate). There is no growth medium in the jars – just the seeds and a minimal amount of moisture. Despite (or maybe because of) this semi-sterile technique, fungus attacks happen once in a while. A quick soak in Cleary 3336 fungicide and rewash

generally clear this up and has no negative effects on the seeds/seedlings.

- 5 Germination usually begins within a week or two. (Tetraploids often take longer).
- 6 As the seedlings grow to 1-3 inches tall, they are transferred to flats (9" x 14") with 67 deep individual growth chambers ("multipots" used for tree seedlings) and grown under lights until ready to plant out in June/July. By this time they are substantial plants 12-15" tall with strong root systems.
- 7 If all goes well, as many as 50% will bloom the following year.

This method involves some extra fussing but, other than basketball, what else is a northern winter for? You can pre-plan the seedling rows because you do know exactly how many seedlings from which crosses will be transferred there. Also if you do seedlings treatments, such as colchicine to produce tetraploids, the newly germinated seedlings can be observed and taken from the jars at just the right time. I have used this method primarily with Siberians but it works well with other beardless irises such as *I. setosa*, Japanese and "pseudatas". It also works with hostas and who knows what else? (Thanks to Currier McEwen and Bob Bauer/John Coble for ideas that helped to develop the system).

GARY SLAGLE GIBBSTOWN, NEW JERSEY

I have been crossing iris for 10 years now , so by most eyes in the world of irises I'm still a rookie ... Yes I have made my rookie mistakes , but I have learned from them. I start planting the weekend after Thanksgiving. I have found that planting in a gallon-sized pot or smaller works best, using a sterile potting mix. I moisten the mix slightly so it can be packed tightly in the pot. Planting in a dry mix causes seeds to sink too deep in the mix, a rookie mistake. I pack the moistened mix to within an inch from the top. Put the seeds from the cross onto the packed mix, cover with half an inch of moistened mix and pack lightly. Set out all winter and let Mother Nature do her thing. But just one word of caution - if you have squirrels around, you will have more than iris seeds sprouting in the spring. I cover my pots with cheap screening material from my local hardware store.

KEITH KEPPEL SALEM, OREGON

Being a fanatic in regard to preserving parentages, I never plant seed in the open ground. For a period of several years you cannot use the same spot twice; not all seeds germinate the first year and may subsequently appear in the midst of later sowings. (Orville Fay used to write how blacks would appear in the midst of Dave Hall's flamingo pinks as the consequence of reusing seed beds.)

All my crosses go into individual pots. If germination is low, it is easy enough to hold the pot over for a second year. Once the soil in the pots is dumped, it is recycled to the flower or shrub borders, while any late-germinating irises are destroyed as weeds.

MITCH JAMESON ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI

Germination of iris seeds is often quite forgiving. Ben Hager often planted in the ground green at harvest time. Keith Keppel has astronomical success in pots in the greenhouse with early germination in the spring. I still go by fall planting sunken pots keeping moist, because it works usually at least some. still plan some year to plant in ground under a board as it makes good sense. ground planting ties up space for years if you track the slow to germinate

W. TERRY VARNER, REPRINTED (INSERT CITATION)

I've used the following method for germinating Bearded Iris seeds for 22 years. Percentage of germination with this method varies, but normally about 35%; however, sometimes 0%. Seeds remain viable for at least 5-6 years. The seeds are normally planted in late October in pots. Seeds of bearded iris prefer a cold stratification to germinate well. I receive higher germination success by freezing the seeds prior to planting as described under storing seeds. It is not necessary to soak them.

The seeds are planted in a mixture of purchased top-soil, humus, sand and compost. Sand and compost compose about 1/3 of the mixture. The components were purchased at local discount stores and a cement plant. Plastic pans and pots are used as containers and can be found at local garage sales. They are planted in a 3" x 3" area per seed capsule, regardless of the number of seeds and covered with about 1/2" of sand. Once planted, containers are placed in a safe place in the garden. The containers are soaked thoroughly when planted, then covered with about 6" of straw. When it snows I normally pile extra snow over the straw. Once the seeds begin to germinate, I remove the straw.

After planting, the seeds are generally never watered until after they begin to germinate, and then watered from above almost daily. Liquid seaweed or Miracle-Gro, mixed in water, is used about once a week. The seeds will begin to sprout from the last week of March through mid-April. The rate of growth varies according to the weather. The seedlings are normally transplanted by June 1, regardless of size, directly from seed flats into the ground. The garden soil they are transplanted into is a mixture of sand, river silt and compost (which is added yearly). All my beds are raised and edged with 6" treated lumber. Once planted into the garden/nursery beds, the seedlings are watered regularly, often daily. They are fed sprayings of liquid fertilizer every 15 days. They are also fed alfalfa pellets after being in the ground two weeks. Monthly feeding of alfalfa pellets continues until September 1. About 65% bloom in the first year. If they fail to bloom by the second year, they are tossed, except in a very rare cross.

A simple method that provides at least some germination would be to freeze seeds upon drying, plant in flats in October, and cover with straw until germination. Germination should be at least 25%. I hold flats for 3 years, keeping them in a dry, protected place until the following October. I generally get seeds to germinate in all three years. ❀

Photo: Kelly Norris



My Favorite Irises

BY ROBIN SHADOW, OREGON

Long-time reblooming advocate and up-and-coming iris hybridizer Robin Shadlow shares her top reblooming irises, not only for their remontancy, but their glamour too.

When you love irises as much as I do, picking favorites, while even narrowing it to rebloomers, is no easy task. To make this list, a variety had to do better than just rebloom reliably, though that got them in the running in the first place. They each have something more to offer—good color, fragrance, or pleasing form.



'Rosalie Figge' (McKnew, 1993) takes first prize for me. The first few years I grew it in Omaha, there was much more bloom in the fall than spring. Once established though, spring and fall became a certainty. The deep violet can almost approach black in the falls. I know the light spray of white at the hafts is plicata genes trying to push through, as we have a yellow-grounded plicata seedling from it. This year in Oregon, 'Rosalie Figge' started reblooming in July. There were times in August and September that we had many clumps in bloom. Even in November, there are often still blooms. It does tend to have more buds in the fall, but can produce decent stalks under a wide variety of weather conditions.



'Days of Summer' (Stanek, 2002) may be one you've never seen. It reblooms among the best of any iris I've grown in the Midwest. The summer in its name is no mistake. We often get the first rebloom stalks in the July. I have seen established clumps bloom in the fall at levels on par with spring bloom. 'Days of Summer' is not a loud color, but is a very pleasing soft yellow with ruffles that are often more lovely in the fall. Plant this one near darker chrysanthemums for a great effect.



If an iris with wide form on tall stalks is your idea of a great iris in the fall, maybe **'Double Shot'** (G. Sutton, 2000) will do as well for you as it has done for me. It had the best form of any reliable rebloomer in Nebraska. When we judge irises, we are always encouraged to select for distinctiveness. There are a lot of plicatas, even a lot of reblooming plicatas out there. 'Double Shot' is distinctive for excellence in rebloom in many climates.



Another lesser known iris keeps earning its place in my garden each year. **'Echo Location'** (Wilkerson, 2007) is a lovely soft buttery yellow, with tiny burgundy plicata marks just visible near the heart of its blooms. This iris often blooms in the summer. It does have the lovely trait of starting off, and then continuing to put up more and more stalks as the season goes on. This variety starts early enough so as not to be taken down by frost. It is a favorite of mine as it is more ruffled than most cold weather rebloomers. Plus it is never short on buds, spring or fall.

The most accurately named iris on this list is **'Constant Companion.'** (Marsh, 1995) This IB was first discovered in the seedling patch in the fall. It's pleasing in deep violet and has pretty form with nice domed standards. 'Constant Companion' tolerates mulching and being near the yard sprinkler. It grows so rapidly that it does best if half the clump is dug so it can be fertilized from the side and keep right on going.

'I'm Back' (Johnson, 2007) has lived up to its name. The intense velvet falls give it terrific impact in the garden. It may not rebloom every year, but you are sure to remember and appreciate it when it does.



I may always be the fondest of irises which can rebloom in the colder zones, but now that we call Oregon home, a few new faces are making the list. Surely well known, **'Florentine Silk' (Keppel, 2005)** has been a favorite of mine since I first saw it as a seedling. I came across my notes from that day and I wrote something to the effect of this is a Dykes Medal winner for sure! It reblooms in late summer here in Oregon, landing it securely in my favorite reblooming irises list. The lovely colors, form and ruffles are especially welcome in the off season.

I could be wrong—it is possible that **'Forever Blue' (Chapman, 1997)** is more aptly named than 'Constant Companion.' An SDB, 'Forever Blue' may be the odd iris that actually reblooms better in colder zones. Once it was established, it did start in late summer in Nebraska and continued putting up stalks through fall. It is a lovely blue, and a welcome sight each time a new stalk begins.

I suspect if I had grown it in Nebraska, that this last iris would have been higher on this list. I once read that Bill Marryott felt **'Pure As Gold' (1993)** was his best iris. That may have been before 'That's All Folks' (2005), but 'Pure As Gold' has stood the test of time. With great color and lovely form, it performs very well in summer and fall here in Oregon.

Let's hope in 10 years I can write a list of favorite rebloomers, and the list includes irises with form and ruffles in line with 'Kitty Kay' (Keppel, 2002), 'Adriatic Waves' (Keppel, 2009) or 'Decadence' (Blyth, 2004). Progress is being made, but it takes many more seedlings to get a quality rebloomer. At least hybridizers working on rebloom can't complain that everything has already been done! ♣

Robin Shadlow gardens and hybridizes irises near Salem, OR, focusing on improving the form and color range of reblooming irises. She can be reached at rshadlow@yahoo.com.

Aphylla Genes in My Breeding Program

BY LOÏC TASQUIER, NETHERLANDS

The main idea behind my project is to get a multitude of smaller flowers on elegant thinner stalks with a candelabra branching starting from very low on the stalk. Of course, early rebloom would be a bonus.

In order to achieve that, my main tools are the elegant tetraploid MTB irises with *Iris aphylla* genes bred by Ben Hager, Ken Fisher, Jim and Vicki Craig. They have dedicated a whole life of iris breeding to bring these genes up to such a standard that we now have the privilege not to work with advanced, *I. aphylla*-derived varieties—in essence, what we’ve got to play with today is much better than what they had to start with, and I will be forever thankful.

Iris aphylla is a small rebloomer with slender stalks, low branching and many small flowers, a plus compared to the *I. pumila* that has only one flower at the end of its stalk. By using *I. aphylla* instead of *I. pumila*, you get thinner stalks, smaller flowers, with a more elegant general appearance than the SDBs that often have a tendency of being crowded. It also seems to have a great influence in the intensity of the colors of the offsprings.

More hybridizers like Terry Aitken, George Sutton, Paul Black, Lynn Markham, Cindy Rust, Bill Chaney, D.C.Nearpass, Harald Mathes and Olga Wells have produced interesting irises with *I. aphylla* genes that I’m using too.

Let me list a few that I’ve used:

‘Apricot Drops’ (1995) is from Terry Aitken. It is pod and pollen fertile and a rebloomer.

‘Claire Doodle’ (2000) from D.C. Nearpass is a lovely pale blue with darker veins and yellow beards.

‘Coral Caper’ (Terry Aitken, 2007) is an excellent grower, great rebloomer, with great branching and intense color. I couldn’t wait to start using it, even though I think its flowers are too big for a MTB. It is such a fantastic parent!

‘Elegant Lass’ (2002) is registered as a BB from the Craigs, but its thinner stems and low branching show it has *I. aphylla* genes. It reblooms exceptionally well. Three of its siblings have been registered: ‘Enriched’ (2000), ‘Fresh Image’ (2000) and ‘Smash’ (2001). It is both pod and pollen fertile.

‘Lucy Doodle’ (2003) is another tetraploid, variegata MTB from D.C. Nearpass.

Harald Mathes’ yellow aphylla seedling has the parentage Gladbeck Yellow X *I. schachtii*. It is fertile both ways. It has an unusual combination of genes. Most seedlings I got were not great, but once in a while something special comes up!

‘Petite Charm’ (2009) from Paul Black has *I. aphylla* genes. Both parents have his seedling K297A as a grandmother. Amazing curly flowers. Fertile both ways.

‘Pushing The Envelope’ (2008) is one of the many registered seedlings George Sutton got from ‘Ben A Factor’ X ‘Ahawahnee Princess’. Even though its pollen is not good, it is an exceptional iris with exceptional bud count that leads to loads of pods. It also has good branching, reblooms, and grows rampantly. Don’t be fooled by its understated flower, it is going to be important. Registered as a SDB, it grows as tall as an MTB.

‘Red Trooper’ (2007) from Ken Fisher has been a great help for intensifying color. It also has great branching on very elegant thin stalks and is fertile both ways.

‘Sailboat’ (2006) a little, white-blue reblooming amoena from the Craigs that is fertile both ways.

‘Smash’ (2001) from the Craigs is an ‘Elegant Lass’ sibling, though completely different, tailored and bicolored. It is also pod and pollen fertile and a rebloomer as well.

‘Step Ahead’ (1989) disappears completely in the winter. It shares more genes with the wild-type species, but still sports a very advanced shape for the time! It is pod fertile.

‘Tender Kiss’ (2011) was my first decent seedling with *I. aphylla*. I was beaming when I saw its branching! It always has a minimum of seven flowers on 21” stalk. Registered as an IB, its parentage is Smash X Miss Nellie.

Even though I am crossing all these beauties with every sort of bearded iris, I will only present the crosses I’ve made with the smaller classes, the reason being purely technical—I had more time in the early season to make decent pictures. Later I got overwhelmed by the amount of seedlings to evaluate and couldn’t spend too much time with the camera.

These F1 seedlings I have obtained don’t have all the characteristics I aim for, but the main asset they already have is the branching. Most of them are SDBs with four or five flowers, while some are taller with a minimum of seven flowers. I will have to select the F2s with the smaller flowers, with hopes that the F3s should be alright!

I hope I’ve illustrated how using *I. aphylla* derivatives can quickly improve bud count and branching in just one or two generations. I had to share all this with you and hope it will give you new ideas for your breeding program. These are mostly F1s and will certainly have to be improved—the branching needs to be widened and the flowers have to be smaller. But thanks to the breeders I mentioned above, who dared to think outside the box, there is a new way to improve our beloved irises, and the more we play with the gene pool, the more surprises we will come across. ♣

For many more photos of Loïc’s work that we didn’t have space for here, please visit his collection of photos on Flickr and use the search box to find the seedling you’re looking for:

http://www.flickr.com/photos/loic_tasquier/collections/72157622353621378/



E248B: Beat! Beat! Drums! X Elegant Lass (SDB X BB)

39 cm. This time just 1 cm below the SDB top limit with 5 out-of-class flowers, but what a branching for a SDB!



F009A: Milano X Coral Capers (SDB X MTB)

It is 5 cm above the SDB limit and has only four flowers on maiden bloom, but the branching is good.



F174A: Baba Au Rhum sib B122C X Red Trooper (SDB X MTB)

39cm. Just at the top of SDB limit with four flowers. Must be improved, but I’m quite happy with the color of this F1.



F437A: D074E: (Corazzano's sib B079B x Baba Au Rhum) X Red Trooper. (SDB X MTB)
46 cm. Only four flowers on maiden bloom. I have hopes, because I like the branching and the color!



E035A: B026E: ('Chubby Cheeks' x 'Charabia') X Mathes' yellow aphylla sdlg. (SDB X SPEC-x)
It still is an SDB, close to the top limit, with four flowers on maiden bloom. I was so excited when I saw the branching. It was a tremendous improvement on the non-aphylla parents!



C383AR: Elegant Lass X Forever Blue. (MTB X SDB)
IB size with six flowers and an exceptional rebloomer.



E926C: Over And Over X Sailboat (TB X MTB)
Top end of the IB class with 7 flowers, but reblooms and is fertile!

Request For Guest Bearded Iris *Iris In Wonderland* – 2015

2015 AIS Convention in Portland, Oregon

The Greater Portland Iris Society will host the American Iris Society Convention in May 2015. Convention attendees will tour six well-known gardens of the Pacific Northwest. Master plantings will be established in three or more Host Gardens. Hybridizers of Bearded varieties are invited to send rhizomes of recent introductions and seedlings under consideration for introduction. Please observe the following guidelines when sending guest irises as only officially submitted guest irises will appear in the convention booklet.

Up to five rhizomes of each variety will be accepted from September 2 through September 14, 2013. Please ship plants to:

John Ludi

Mail

PO Box 956

Sandy, Oregon 97055-0956

UPS/FEDEX

35071 SE Hwy 211

Boring, Oregon 97009-9584

CONTACTS:

John Ludi: kludi@juno.com

Chad Harris: chadharris@prodigy.net

The name of the variety or seedling number should be clearly marked on each rhizome. In addition, the following information should accompany each variety on a separate packing list:

- Hybridizer's name, address, email address and telephone number
- Name or seedling number of the variety
- Type of iris (SDB, IB, MTB, BB, TB, ARIL, etc)
- Height, color, distinguishing features
- Year of introduction (if applicable)

The packing list should include the contributors email address to receive an electronic receipt. Absent of an email address a receipt will be mailed to all contributors.

If a guest seedling is later named, it will be the responsibility of the hybridizer to notify the Guest Iris Chair of change. Updates should include name and corresponding seedling number.

Shortly before the convention, contributors will be asked for instructions regarding disposition of the plants. Failure to reply by April 1, 2015 will be interpreted as permission to destroy all seedlings, and distributed named varieties, one to each host garden and the rest as determined by the Convention Committee. *No rhizomes will be offered for sale on the internet or other means which compete with sales by the contributors.* Guest iris returned will be sent freight paid, except for foreign addresses.

The Convention Committee and the owners of the host gardens will strictly adhere to the Code of Ethics as printed in the AIS Convention Handbook.

The Convention Committee and host gardens will not be responsible for losses beyond their control. ♣



2014 AIS Iris Calendars

\$5.00 each plus S&H (USA \$3.00, Canada \$4.00, International \$6.00). Packet of 10 for \$40.00 plus S&H (USA \$6.00, Canada \$10.00, International \$20.00). For quantities of 100 or more, contact the AIS Storefront for special discount. Available March 1, 2013.

Future Mini Conventions

SOCIETY FOR LOUISIANA IRISES

April 21-23, 2013, Dallas, TX (immediately following the AIS Convention in Dallas, April 15-20, 2013)

2014, NEW ORLEANS, LA

2015, LAFAYETTE, LA

SOCIETY FOR SIBERIAN IRISES/SIGNA

June 2013, Lansing, MI (postponed from 2012)

SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE IRISES

July 2014; Victoria, BC, Canada

SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY

2016, Los Angeles, CA area

2012 AIS Exhibition Report

Region	Date	Place	Type	Best Specimen	Exhibitor	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	Best Design	Artistic Sweepstakes Winner
1	5/19	Lewiston, ME	SDB	Cheeky Kid	Ed & Pat Norton	Ed & Pat Norton	Pauline Grenier	Julia Strouse	Madeline Strouse
1	5/28	Concord, MA	IB	Petite Charm	Barbara & David Schmieder	Jan Sacks & Marty Schafer	Debby Wheeler	Marcia Connolly	Debby Wheeler
1	6/9	Auburn, ME	MTB	Bumblebee Deelite	Madeline Strouse (Y)	Robert Sawyer	Lee & Sharon Harvie	Peter Young	Peter Young
2	5/26	Poughkeepsie, NY	TB	Going Home	Faith Larson	Frank Sorbello	Faith Larson	N/A	N/A
2	6/3	Toronto, ON, CAN	MTB	Stitched In Blue	Terry Laurin	Terry Laurin	Kate Brewitt	N/A	N/A
2	6/30	Sandy Creek, NY	LA	Lone Star	Mary J. Urist	Mary J. Urist	Donna James	N/A	N/A
3	5/12	York, PA	TB	Ever So Lovely	Brett Butler	Harold L. Griffie	Brett Butler	N/A	N/A
3	5/19	Devon, PA	TB	Bargain Hunter	Brett Butler	Brett Butler	Carol Ann Moyer	Svetlana McCoy Rusanova	N/A
3	5/20	Burlington, NJ	TB	Pretty As A Picture	Brett Butler	Brett Butler	Martha Griner	N/A	N/A
3	6/16	Devon, PA	JI	Wild Glider	Larry Westfall	Larry Westfall	Carol Ann Moyer	Patricia Bilson	N/A
4	4/28	Raleigh, NC	TB-SA	Thornbird	Ray & Wanda Quinn	Susan & Glenn Grigg	Robert Pries	Robert Pries	Robert Pries
4	5/5	Henrico, VA	LA	Black Gamecock	Wayne Bryant	Frieda Jerrell	Paula Blaylock	N/A	N/A
4	5/12	Norfolk, VA	TB	Sophistication	Janis Bryant	Janis Bryant	Marian "Bea" Rogers	N/A	N/A
4	5/12	Spotsylvania, VA	JI	Grape Fizz	Doug Chyz	Lois Rose	Doug Chyz	Virginia Estes	Marilyn Lucero
4	5/25	Winchester, VA	SPEC	Yarai	Carol Warner	Carol Warner	Ginny Spoon	N/A	N/A
4	6/23	Towson, MD	JI	Triple Threat	Carol Gitter	Carol Warner	Carol Gitter	N/A	N/A
4	10/20	Norfolk, VA	MTB	Lady Emma	Lois Rose	Lois Rose	N/A	Karin Fleischman	N/A
5	4/14	Milledgeville, GA	LA	Atchafalaya	Adair Wood	Earnest Yearwood	Joe Scott Watson	Earnest Yearwood	Earnest Yearwood
5	4/17	Griffin, GA	TB	About Town	Lee Byous	Sam Caldwell	Elizabeth Payne	Heven Leigh Smarr	Heaven Leigh Smarr
5	4/28	Atlanta, GA	TB	Titan's Glory	Paul Thomas	Mary Bolton	Paul Thomas	Jackie Harvey	Jackie Harvey
6	5/6	Muncie, IN	Spec	I. tectorum	Peggy Harger-Allen	Melvin Rogers	Chuck Bunnell	Betty Rogers	Betty Rogers
6	5/18	East Lansing, MI	TB	Ginger Swirl	Brock Heilman	Jane Hamelink	Brock Heilman	Sandy Perry	N/A
6	5/19	Indianapolis, IN	LA	Dorthea K. Williamson	Peggy Allen	Chuck Bunnell	Mary Lou Swann-Young	Mary Lou Swann-Young	Mary Lou Swann-Young
6	5/19	Kalamazoo, MI	SIB	Kiss the Girl	Ensata Garden	Steve & Ginger Smith	Ensata Garden	N/A	N/A
6	5/26	Cleveland, OH	TB-SA	Conjuration	Patricia Koch	Dorothy Willott	Robert Pindell	Sandra Pindell	Robert Pindell
6	5/27	Fort Wayne, IN	Versicolor	Light Verse	Light Verse	Brian Wendel	Brian Wendel	Lana Wolfe	N/A N/A
6	6/2	Mio, MI	TB	Broken Pattern	Kristin Sorgenfrei	Kristin Sorgenfrei	Adam Cordes	Ruth Gifford	Ruth Gifford
7	4/21	Germantown, TN	LA	Laura Louise	Earnie & Debbie Royal	Raymond Craft	Badger & Carol Ann Carney	Teresa Shannon	N/A
7	4/28	Jackson, TN	TB	Mastery	Sue & Layton Gossage	Badger & Carol Ann Carney	Sue & Layton Gossage	Sue Ann Barnes	N/A
7	4/28	Louisville, KY	TB	American Classic	Van Hook Family	Van Hook Family	Velta Childress	Kristen Scott	Kristen Scott
7	5/5	Nashville, TN	TB	Sharper Image	Russell & Jill Watson	Raymond Craft	Darnell Hester	Mary & Jerry Phillips	N/A
7	5/12	Lexington, KY	MTB	Look Here	Van Hook Family	Van Hook Family	David Cupps	N/A	N/A
8	5/19	Hales Corners, WI	TB	County Cork	Bonnie M. Sonntag	Ramona Keller	Bonnie M. Sonntag	N/A	N/A
9	6/2	Lisle, IL	LA	Dixie Deb	Cathy Hendrickson	N/A	N/A	Cathy Hendrickson	Cathy Hendrickson
10	4/21	Shreveport, LA	LA	DeJa Voodoo	Robert Treadway	Robert Treadway	Tom Dillard	N/A	N/A
11	5/19	Nampa, ID	TB	Lion's Share	Sharon Touchstone	Sharon Touchstone	Ken Gordy	Loreli Bouffard	Loreli Bouffard
11	6/9	Missoula, MT	TB	Hi Calypso	Swede Gustafson	Joyce Zamelis	M. Elizabeth Friesz	Donna Dowell	James Sadler
12	5/12	Salt Lake City, UT	TB	Peace Prayer	David Burke	Paul J. Smith	Tom & Linda Miller	Paul J. Smith	Randy Brown
12	5/26	Salt Lake City, UT	SIB	Trim the Velvet	Thomas & Linda Miller	Thomas & Linda Miller	John P. Zastowney	Thomas Miller	Lynn Hess
12	6/1	Logan, UT	TB	Blanket of Snow	Laura Urness	Bryan Earl	Laura Urness	Ra'ndy Brown	Randy Brown
13	5/5	Portland, OR	SDB	Open Your Eyes	Chad Harris	Chad Harris	John Ludi	Tara Choate	Tara Choate
13	5/19	Salem OR	SIB	Ruffles & Flourishes	Lynda Miller	Lynda Miller	Robin Shadlow	N/A	N/A
13	5/19	Yakima, WA	BB	Princess Bride	Marjory Clements	Marjory Clements	Dorothy S. Munroe	Dorothy S. Munroe	Dorothy S. Munroe
13	5/20	Walla Walla, WA	TB	Canned Heat	Tanya Bancroft	Tim Metler	Lucy Floren	Bev Almvig	Bev Almvig
13	5/26	Portland, OR	TB-SA	Hook Up	Lynda Miller	Chad Harris	Anne McDowell	Kay Ludi	Kay Ludi
13	6/9	Spokane Valley, WA	TB	City of Gold	Beverly Klante	Ernie Hoch	Robert Karr	Ernie Hoch	Shirley Dicus
13	6/9	Tacoma, WA	TB	Heaven's Gift	Mel Cross	Mel Cross	Dixon Blackmer	Lori Kase	Eileen Smiley
13	6/23	Portland, OR	JI	Hekiun	Chad Harris	Chad Harris	John Ludi	Darlene Wheeler	Kay Ludi
13	6/30	Bellevue, WA	SPU	Missouri Morning	Kay Ludi	Chad Harris	Sandy Williamson	N/A	N/A
14	4/14	Clovis, CA	TB	Jean Queen	Terry Toney	Bill Tyson	Betty Bridger	Betty Brieger	N/A
14	4/14	Henderson, NV	TB	Parisian Dawn	Helen Rusk	Christine Meagher	Linda Pires	N/A	N/A

Region	Date	Place	Type	Best Specimen	Exhibitor	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	Best Design	Artistic Sweepstakes Winner
1	5/19	Lewiston, ME	SDB	Cheeky Kid	Ed & Pat Norton	Ed & Pat Norton	Pauline Grenier	Julia Strouse	Madeline Strouse
1	5/28	Concord, MA	IB	Petite Charm	Barbara & David Schmieder	Jan Sacks & Marty Schafer	Debby Wheeler	Marcia Connolly	Debby Wheeler
1	6/9	Auburn, ME	MTB	Bumblebee Deelite	Madeline Strouse (Y)	Robert Sawyer	Lee & Sharon Harvie	Peter Young	Peter Young
2	5/26	Poughkeepsie, NY	TB	Going Home	Faith Larson	Frank Sorbello	Faith Larson	N/A	N/A
2	6/3	Toronto, ON, CAN	MTB	Stitched In Blue	Terry Laurin	Terry Laurin	Kate Brewitt	N/A	N/A
2	6/30	Sandy Creek, NY	LA	Lone Star	Mary J. Urist	Mary J. Urist	Donna James	N/A	N/A
3	5/12	York, PA	TB	Ever So Lovely	Brett Butler	Harold L. Griffie	Brett Butler	N/A	N/A
3	5/19	Devon, PA	TB	Bargain Hunter	Brett Butler	Brett Butler	Carol Ann Moyer	Svetlana McCoy Rusanova	N/A
3	5/20	Burlington, NJ	TB	Pretty As A Picture	Brett Butler	Brett Butler	Martha Griner	N/A	N/A
3	6/16	Devon, PA	JI	Wild Glider	Larry Westfall	Larry Westfall	Carol Ann Moyer	Patricia Bilson	N/A
4	4/28	Raleigh, NC	TB-SA	Thornbird	Ray & Wanda Quinn	Susan & Glenn Grigg	Robert Pries	Robert Pries	Robert Pries
4	5/5	Henrico, VA	LA	Black Gamecock	Wayne Bryant	Frieda Jerrell	Paula Blaylock	N/A	N/A
4	5/12	Norfolk, VA	TB	Sophistication	Janis Bryant	Janis Bryant	Marian “Bea” Rogers	N/A	N/A
4	5/12	Spotsylvania, VA	JI	Grape Fizz	Doug Chyz	Lois Rose	Doug Chyz	Virginia Estes	Marilyn Lucero
4	5/25	Winchester, VA	SPEC	Yarai	Carol Warner	Carol Warner	Ginny Spoon	N/A	N/A
4	6/23	Towson, MD	JI	Triple Threat	Carol Gitter	Carol Warner	Carol Gitter	N/A	N/A
4	10/20	Norfolk, VA	MTB	Lady Emma	Lois Rose	Lois Rose	N/A	Karin Fleischman	N/A
5	4/14	Milledgeville, GA	LA	Atchafaya	Adair Wood	Earnest Yearwood	Joe Scott Watson	Earnest Yearwood	Earnest Yearwood
5	4/17	Griffin, GA	TB	About Town	Lee Byous	Sam Caldwell	Elizabeth Payne	Heven Leigh Smarr	Heaven Leigh Smarr
5	4/28	Atlanta, GA	TB	Titan’s Glory	Paul Thomas	Mary Bolton	Paul Thomas	Jackie Harvey	Jackie Harvey
6	5/6	Muncie, IN	Spec	I. tectorum	Peggy Harger-Allen	Melvin Rogers	Chuck Bunnell	Betty Rogers	Betty Rogers
6	5/18	East Lansing, MI	TB	Ginger Swirl	Brock Heilman	Jane Hamelink	Brock Heilman	Sandy Perry	N/A
6	5/19	Indianapolis, IN	LA	Dorthea K. Williamson	Peggy Allen	Chuck Bunnell	Mary Lou Swann-Young	Mary Lou Swann-Young	Mary Lou Swann-Young
6	5/19	Kalamazoo, MI	SIB	Kiss the Girl	Ensata Garden	Steve & Ginger Smith	Ensata Garden	N/A	N/A
6	5/26	Cleveland, OH	TB-SA	Conjuration	Patricia Koch	Dorothy Willott	Robert Pindell	Sandra Pindell	Robert Pindell
6	5/27	Fort Wayne, IN	Versicolor		Light Verse	Brian Wendel	Brian Wendel	Lana Wolfe	N/A N/A
6	6/2	Mio, MI	TB	Broken Pattern	Kristin Sorgenfrei	Kristin Sorgenfrei	Adam Cordes	Ruth Gifford	Ruth Gifford
7	4/21	Germantown, TN	LA	Laura Louise	Earnie & Debbie Royal	Raymond Craft	Badger & Carol Ann Carney	Teresa Shannon	N/A
7	4/28	Jackson, TN	TB	Mastery	Sue & Layton Gossage	Badger & Carol Ann Carney	Sue & Layton Gossage	Sue Ann Barnes	N/A
7	4/28	Louisville, KY	TB	American Classic	Van Hook Family	Van Hook Family	Velta Childress	Kristen Scott	Kristen Scott
7	5/5	Nashille, TN	TB	Sharper Image	Russell & Jill Watson	Raymond Craft	Darnell Hester	Mary & Jerry Phillips	N/A
7	5/12	Lexington, KY	MTB	Look Here	Van Hook Family	Van Hook Family	David Cupps	N/A	N/A
8	5/19	Hales Corners, WI	TB	County Cork	Bonnie M. Sonntag	Ramona Keller	Bonnie M. Sonntag	N/A	N/A
9	6/2	Lisle, IL	LA	Dixie Deb	Cathy Hendrickson	N/A	N/A	Cathy Hendrickson	Cathy Hendrickson
10	4/21	Shreveport, LA	LA	DeJa Voodoo	Robert Treadway	Robert Treadway	Tom Dillard	N/A	N/A
11	5/19	Nampa, ID	TB	Lion’s Share	Sharon Touchstone	Sharon Touchstone	Ken Gordy	Loreli Bouffard	Loreli Bouffard
11	6/9	Missoula, MT	TB	Hi Calypso	Swede Gustafson	Joyce Zamelis	M. Elizabeth Friesz	Donna Dowell	James Sadler
12	5/12	Salt Lake City, UT	TB	Peace Prayer	David Burke	Paul J. Smith	Tom & Linda Miller	Paul J. Smith	Randy Brown
12	5/26	Salt Lake City, UT	SIB	Trim the Velvet	Thomas & Linda Miller	Thomas & Linda Miller	John P. Zastowney	Thomas Miller	Lynn Hess
12	6/1	Logan, UT	TB	Blanket of Snow	Laura Urness	Bryan Earl	Laura Urness	Ra’ndy Brown	Randy Brown
13	5/5	Portland, OR	SDB	Open Your Eyes	Chad Harris	Chad Harris	John Ludi	Tara Choate	Tara Choate
13	5/19	Salem OR	SIB	Ruffles & Flourishes	Lynda Miller	Lynda Miller	Robin Shadlow	N/A	N/A
13	5/19	Yakima,WA	BB	Princess Bride	Marjory Clements	Marjory Clements	Dorothy S. Munroe	Dorothy S. Munroe	Dorothy S. Munroe
13	5/20	Walla Walla, WA	TB	Canned Heat	Tanya Bancroft	Tim Metler	Lucy Floren	Bev Almvig	Bev Almvig
13	5/26	Portland, OR	TB-SA	Hook Up	Lynda Miller	Chad Harris	Anne McDowell	Kay Ludi	Kay Ludi
13	6/9	Spokane Valley, WA	TB	City of Gold	Beverly Klante	Ernie Hoch	Robert Karr	Ernie Hoch	Shirley Dicus
13	6/9	Tacoma, WA	TB	Heaven’s Gift	Mel Cross	Mel Cross	Dixon Blackmer	Lori Kase	Eileen Smiley
13	6/23	Portland, OR	JI	Hekiun	Chad Harris	Chad Harris	John Ludi	Darlene Wheeler	Kay Ludi
13	6/30	Bellevue, WA	SPU	Missouri Morning	Kay Ludi	Chad Harris	Sandy Williamson	N/A	N/A
14	4/14	Clovis, CA	TB	Jean Queen	Terry Toney	Bill Tyson	Betty Bridger	Betty Brieger	N/A
14	4/14	Henderson, NV	TB	Parisian Dawn	Helen Rusk	Christine Meagher	Linda Pires	N/A	N/A
14	4/14	San Jose, CA	IB	Ruby Sands	Jane Jordan	Lisa Ayala	Gary Knipe	Jane Ann Walters	N/A
14	4/14	Walnut Creek, CA	SDB	Bluebeard’s Ghost	Kenneth Walker	Eileen Roark	Kenneth Walker	N/A	N/A
14	4/21	Sacramento, CA	TB	Kings Point	Cathleen Campi	Kathy Braaten	Phyllis Wilburn	Frankie Raymond	Ruth Ostroff
14	5/5	Auburn, CA	MTB	Red Trooper	Kathy Braaten	Kathy Braaten	Mary Ann Horton	Kathy Braaten	Kathy Braaten
14	5/5	Oakland, CA	SIB	Strawberry Fair	Bob & Janet Canning	Bob & Janet Canning	Marilyn Kaplan	Marilyn Kaplan	N/A
14	5/5	Redding, CA	TB	I’m Back	Lee Padden	Sandy Olsen	Lee Padden	Sandy Olsen	N/A

Region	Date	Place	Type	Best Specimen	Exhibitor	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	Best Design	Artistic Sweepstakes Winner	
14	5/12	Santa Rosa, CA	TB	Cleared For Takeoff	Kathy McCallum	Anna & David Cadd	Anna Marie Hermansen	N/A	N/A	
14	6/2	Reno, NV	TB	Double Ringer	Patricia Eisenberg	Evelyn Condo	Patricia Eisenberg	Jane Wertzberger	N/A	
14	10/27	Roseville, CA	SDB	Pause	Riley Probst	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
15	3/31	Arcadia, CA	TB	That's All Folks	Marilyn Pecoraro	Lynn McIlwain	Leigh Nicolai-Moon	John Wight	Derelyn Gerald	
15	4/14	Phoenix, AZ	TB	Easy Being Green	Sharon Petterson	Sharon Petterson	Jack Weber	N/A	N/A	
15	4/14	Woodland Hills, CA	TB	Wizard of Odds	Kim Ung	Harriet Uhl	Mary Anne Abrahms	Peggy Carpenter	Jan Lauritzen	
15	4/27	Lompoc, CA	TB	Splashacata	John & Jean Anton	Holly & Jeff Palmer	N/A	N/A	N/A	
15	5/5	Lancaster, CA	TB-SA	Conjuration	Kim Ung	Yvette McClung	Kim Ung	Joyce Bertram	Joyce Bertram	
17	4/8	Austin, TX	TB-SA	Thornbird	T. Sheridan & Tiffany	Don & Pat Freeman	Charles & Sonja Hensley	Pat Freeman	Nelda Moore	
17	4/14	Belton, TX	TB	Baditude	Don & Pat Freeman	Don & Pat Freeman	Jim Landers	K. A. Woods	N/A	
17	4/14	Cleburne, TX	TB-SA	Hoptoit	Kathy Wade	Glenn & Gloria Huddleston	Dan & Peggy Cathey	LeRoy Nabors	Peggy Cathey	
17	4/14	Dallas, TX	TB-SA	Hoptoit	Carol Duff	Dell Perry	Hooker & Bonnie Nichols	N/A	N/A	
17	4/14	Midland, TX	TB	Italian Ice	Barbara Elliott	Barbara Eliott	Peggy Wennerlind	Barbara Elliott	Barbara Elliott	
17	4/15	Hico, TX	TB	Mother Earth	June Hivnor	Dan & Peggy Cathey	June Hivnor	Peggy Cathey	N/A	
17	4/21	Fort Worth, TX	TB	Queen's Circle	Joe & Donna Spears	Joe & Donna Spears	Kieth Smith	Helene Welches	Ester Strawn	
17	4/28	Lubbock, TX	SPU	Solar Fusion	Glenna Keese	Vernon & Dana Brown	Glenna Keese	Dawn K. Boyer	Rosemary English	
17	4/28	Odessa, TX	TB	Murano Amber	Pat Jones	Pat Jones	Barbara Elliot	Connie Ford	Felica Henery	
18	4/14	St. Louis, MO	TB	Glamour Pants	Kim Peterson	Jim & Jean Morris	Kim Peterson	Kim Peterson	N/A	
18	4/27	St Joseph, MO	TB	Be Original	Bev Hoyt	Bev Hoyt	Alan Moore	N/A	N/A	
18	4/28	Hutchinson, KS	TB-SA	Strictly Taboo	Carol Moore	Debra Crose	Carol Moore	Pat Bass	Pat Bass	
18	4/29	St. Louis, MO	SPEC	I. spuria subsp. Musulmanica	Jim & Jean Morris	Jim & Jean Morris	Leora McTall	Kim Peterson	Kim Peterson	
18	4/29	Wichita, KS	TB	Juke Box Hero	Walt Wattman	Jerry Richardson	James & Laurie Winzer	Sherryl Fitzpatrick	Floanna Crowley	
18	5/2	Chesterfield, MO	TB	Out of the Blue	Adam Birdsong (Y)	Jim & Jean Morris	Valerie Mertz	N/A	N/A	
18	5/5	Overland Park, KS	TB	Italian Ice	Debbie Hughes	Rick Davis	Carolyn Ash	Carolyn Ash	N/A	
18	5/5	Springfield, MO	TB	Blazing Beacon	Wanda Gideon	Wanda Gideon	Calvin Helsley	Ruth McMillion	Ruth McMillion	
18	5/5	Union, MO	IA	Clyde Redmond	Carol Kuhlmann	Carol Kuhlmann	Jim & Jean Morris	B. Pennington	B. Pennington	
18	5/6	Dodge City, KS	TB	Beverly Sills	Sandy Williams	Bob Elder	Alice Sinclair	Alice Sinclair	Alice Sinclair	
18	5/13	Wichita, KS	SPU	Port of Call	Sherryl Fitzpatrick	Kendal Rohr	Sherryl Fitzpatrick	Floanna Crowley	Floanna Crowley	
18	5/19	Columbia, MO	SPU	Short Circuit	B & E Tankesley-Clark	Dan & Audrey Judy	Don Delmez	Karen Blackmore	Karen Blackmore	
20	6/2	Colorado Springs, CO	TB	Standing Proud	Lowell Baumunk	Scott Briggs	Grace Syme	Mary Speights	N/A	
20	6/3	Denver, CO	TB	Phantom Ship	Lowell Baumunk	Lowell Baumunk	Rebecca Schlottach	N/A	N/A	
21	4/28	Sioux City, IA	IB	Prince of Burgundy	Jon Iverson	Lawrence Lacey	Arnold Koekkoek	N/A	N/A	
21	5/19	Scottsbluff, NE	TB	Beneath My Wings	Karen & Milt West	Stan Haas	Fred Hara	June Hara	June Hara	
21	6/10	Winnipeg, MB, Canada	MTB		Ace	B. J. Jackson	B. J. Jackson	Sandra Eggertson	N/A	N/A
22	4/14	Oklahoma City, OK	AB	Rare Breed	Louise Carson	Cynthia Wade	Jennifer & Hugh Stout		N/A	N/A
22	4/15	Lawton, OK	TB	Starring	Maryestelle Bishop	Maryestelle Bishop	Scottie Finney	Mary Ann Holman	N/A	
22	4/21	Hot Springs, AR	IA	Rochester Lilacs	James Bledsoe	James Bledsoe	Phyllis Kirtley	Kathy Farrar	Uma Rao	
22	4/28	Littl Rock, AR	LA	Full Eclipse	Phyllis Kirtley	Phyllis Kirtley	Tom Dillard	Adrianne Kahn	Genie Sigler	
22	4/28	Searcy, AR	LA	Henry Rowlan	LaVera Johnson	LaVera Johnson	Alice Jewell	N/A	N/A	
22	4/28	Tulsa, OK	LA	Icarus	Peggy Meekins	Peggy Meekins	Phyllis Hiebert	N/A	N/A	
22	4/29	Norman, OK	TB	King of Light	Jennifer Stout	Jennifer Stout	Louise Carson	Nancy Kowalchyk	Nancy Kowalchyk	
23	4/14	Las Cruces, NM	TB	House Afire	Lilly Rawlyk	Steve Kelly	Lilly Rawlyk	N/A	N/A	
23	4/28	Roswell, NM	TB	Ink Patterns	Pegi Naranjo	Pagi Naranjo	Georgia Schoenecker	Shayla Smith	Isabel Olsen	
23	5/12	Rio Rancho, NM	TB	That's All Folks	Patricia Randall	Kathy Palmer	Ken Fladager	Patricia Randall	Patricia Randall	
23	5/26	Santa Fe, NM	TB	Golden Panther	John & Rosemary Cain	John & Rosemary Cain	Frances Garcia	Shelby Green	Shelby Green ♣	

2012 AIS Youth Exhibition Report

Region	Date	Place	Type	Best Specimen	Exhibitor	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	Best Design	Artistic Sweepstakes Winner
1	5/19	Lewiston, ME	SDB	Outburst	Madeline Strouse	Madeline Strouse	N/A	Julia Strouse	Madeline Strouse
1	6/9	Auburn, ME	MTB	Bumblebee Deelite	Madeline Strouse	Madeline Strouse	Julia Strouse	Madeline Strouse	Madeline Strouse
5	4/14	Milledgeville, GA	TB	Victoria Falls	Katie Snow	N/A	N/A	Grady Meier	N/A
5	4/28	Atlanta, GA	TB	Debbie Rairdon	William R. Thomas	N/A	N/A	Andrew Harvey	N/A
6	5/26	Cleveland, OH	TB	Celebration Song	Abigail Lubowicki	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
6	6/2	Mio, MI	TB	Celebration Song	Celeste Bennett	Laura Dreyer	Celeste Bennett	N/A	N/A
7	4/21	Germantown, TN	TB	Silverado	Robyn Evans	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
9	6/2	Lisle, IL		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Samantha Hendrickson	Jessica Hendrickson
13	6/9	Tacoma, WA	TB-SA	Honk Your Horn	Emily Coffey	N/A	N/A	Emily Coffey	N/A
15	4/14	Phoenix, AZ		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Emily Nolan	N/A
15	5/5	Lancaster, CA		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Zoe Pitco	N/A
17	4/14	Cleburne, TX	TB	Osay Canuc	Josh Howard	N/A	N/A	Chelsea Curlee	N/A
17	4/14	Dallas, TX	TB	Sun Shine In	Claire Agee	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
17	4/14	Midland, TX	TB	Blue Berry Bliss	Faith Donnell	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
17	4/15	Hico, TX	TB	Spun Gold	Emily Hinton	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
17	4/28	Odessa, TX	TB	Amarillo Frills	Faith Donnell	N/A	N/A	Faith Donnell	N/A
18	4/14	St. Louis, MO		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Gracey Raymond	N/A
18	4/28	Hutchinson, KS		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Hayley Waymire	Haley Waymire
18	5/2	Chesterfield, MO	TB	Out of the Blue	Adam Birdsong	Karla Scheere	Monica Scheere	N/A	N/A
18	5/5	Springfield, MO	TB	Evelyn's Echo	Mac Bushong	Bailey Bushong	Mac Bushong	N/A	N/A
18	5/5	Union, MO		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Nate Grzeskowiak	N/A
20	6/2	Colorado Springs, CO		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Catie Blickhahn	Catie Blickhahn
23	4/28	Roswell, NM	TB	Tomorrow May Rain	Eryn Frosch	N/A	N/A	Shayla Smith	Shayla Smith ♣

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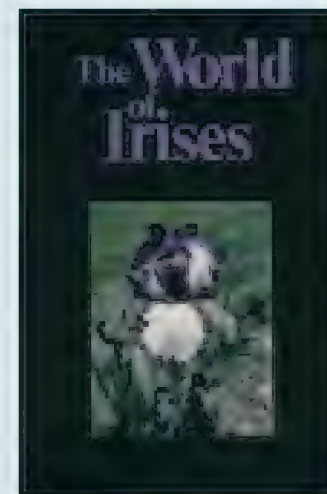
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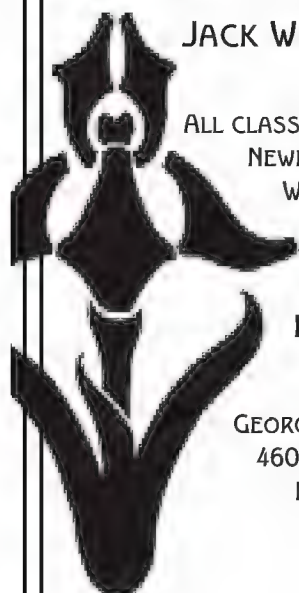
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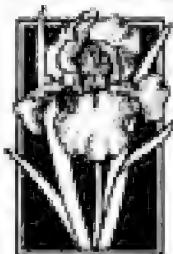
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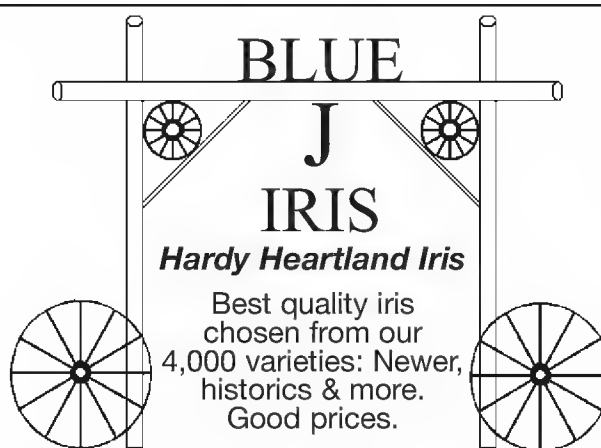
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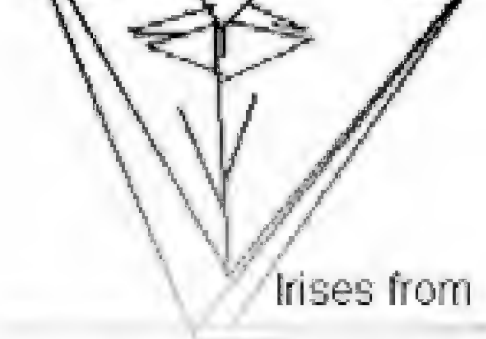
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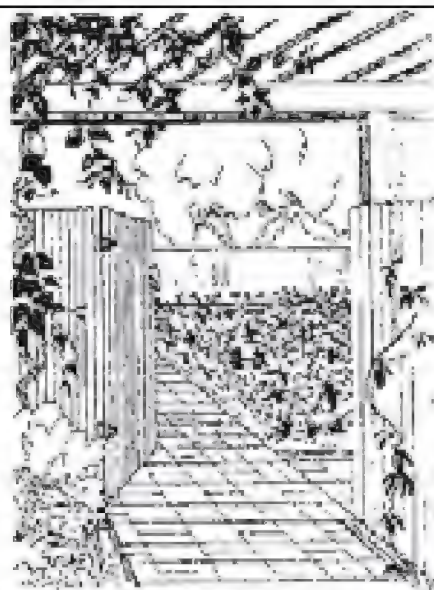
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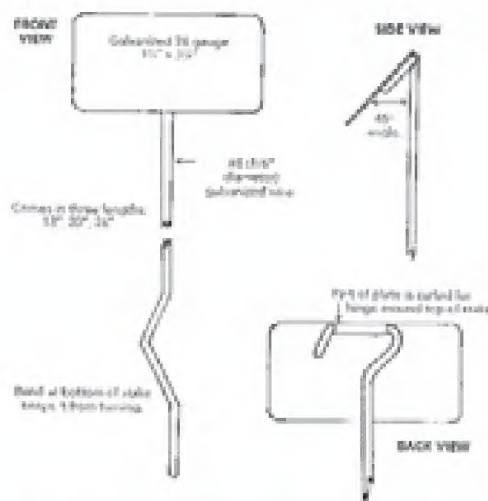


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Next issue plantsman Panayoti Kelaidis
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'I'm Back' (Johnson, 2007). See article, page 43.